The National
Future Farmer

Published by the Future Farmers of America

October–November, 1983

Inside this Issue: A Pasture Full of Profits
Agriculture's Crystal Ball

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The National
Future Farmer
Published by the Future Farmers of America

October-November, 1983
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A Word With The Editor

The "back to basics" movement in education sweeping the country has a lot of appeal in academic circles. Typically it requires more math and science for high school graduation and college entry. Who could be opposed to that?

Sounds good until you examine what is happening this year in some schools. In order to take the newly-required academic courses, some students find they must take fewer electives and cannot schedule vocational agriculture. One chapter even had to elect new officers because of the change.

Those responsible for the educational programs in our country should study carefully the long-term consequence of placing less emphasis on vocational agriculture. No other country in the world has an agricultural education program like ours—and no other country is as well fed with a surplus of agricultural commodities to help feed the rest of the world. After all, if vocational agriculture isn't "basic" to the needs of this country, what is?

National Advisor Byron Rawls retired in August and returned to his native state of Alabama. (See page 28.) A number of achievements can be credited to Mr. Rawls during his term of office. Perhaps the greatest of these was his ability to pull together the various groups serving agricultural education into a working team for FFA.

Mr. Rawls joins two other living persons who have served in FFA's highest position: Mr. H. N. Hunsicker, 1965-79 and Dr. A. W. Tenney, 1961-65.

Welcome to Thaine McCormick, who has assumed the duties of national advisor on an acting basis until a replacement for Mr. Rawls is named. Mr. McCormick is Chief, Program Services Branch of the U.S. Department of Education.

Wilson Carnes

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A Wyoming sheep rancher hopes to continue a long and proud family tradition.

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Take notes, guys; she captured an award that, until now, had been "all male."

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Cover: *Cover Photo by Michael Wilson*

19-year-old George Etchemendy, from the Douglas, Wyoming, FFA Chapter, is surrounded by friendly faces during feeding time at the FFA member's family-operated sheep ranch. George and his family hail from an old world "Basque" background, which is the subject of our cover story on page 14.

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Pre-Convention Highlights . . .

Let's Head For KC!

THE stage is almost set, the spotlights tested, and the chairs are being placed neatly in line for the anticipated arrival of 22,000 high-spirited, blue-jacketed FFA members, guests, celebrities and friends in Kansas City, Missouri, on November 10-12, 1983.

They're all arriving for one purpose: to participate in the highlight of the FFA year, the 56th annual National FFA Convention, scheduled for KC's Municipal Auditorium.

Willard Scott, well-known weatherman from NBC's "Today Show" will be a featured speaker at this year's convention. He also plans to do his weather forecast live from Kansas City on Friday morning of the convention.

The convention will also feature speeches from Zig Ziglar and Robert Moawad, president and founder of United Learning Institute, Inc. Singer Charley Pride, scheduled to perform at the American Royal, will bring greetings to the FFA gathering.

These celebrity appearances, though, are just the beginning. Starting with the American Royal parade on Saturday, November 5 at 8:30 a.m., FFA members and guests will participate in a week filled with excitement and entertainment. Under this year's new FFA theme "Keeping America On The Grow," FFA delegates will conduct business and make decisions affecting a fellow membership of nearly one-half million. FFA talent, band and chorus members will give performances throughout the convention, beginning with Wednesday evening's Vespers program, and the 1982-83 National Officer team will officially open the convention on Thursday morning.

And the excitement won't be limited to Municipal Auditorium. At nearby H. Roe Bartle Hall, the National Agricultural Career Show will feature exhibits from breed associations, educational institutions, state FFA exhibits and major ag companies. The National FFA Alumni Association will again be conducting leadership workshops for FFA members beginning on Thursday.

Nine national contests will test the skills of top state-winning judging teams, and the celebrated "Stars Over America Pageant," is scheduled for Thursday evening. A convention newspaper, *The FFA Times*, will keep those in attendance up to date with the latest convention news as it happens.

All in all, the national convention is something you won't want to miss. Let's head for KC! •••

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The FFA News in Brief

FLOPPY DISC DEPT: The National FFA Foundation recently announced a new recognition program called "Computers In Agriculture," for vo-ag students with skill and interest in microcomputing. This award, sponsored as a special project by AgriData Resources, Inc., is established to "recognize outstanding vo-ag students with agricultural computer talents," says National Executive Secretary C. Coleman Harris. The program provides a certificate to the top student in every FFA chapter who has shown the greatest progress in using a microcomputer in agriculture or agribusiness. The purpose of the new award is to recognize outstanding student accomplishments in ag computing; to encourage vo-ag teachers and students to use the computer as a management tool in agriculture; to recognize the importance of using computers as a learning tool in the classroom; and to help identify vo-ag as rewarding and challenging to potential vo-ag students.

THE NATIONAL FFA Foundation has established the Byron Rawls Honors Fund as a tribute to the recently-retired National FFA Advisor (see story this issue). The fund will help support the Hall of Achievement at Mr. Rawls' request. To honor Mr. Rawls and secure your name in his personal Honors Record, send contributions to the National FFA Foundation, P.O. Box 5117, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

A NEW SCHOLARSHIP Program for FFA members has been developed by the National FFA Foundation. Touted as the "College and Vocational/Technical School Scholarship Program," FFA members who are high school seniors now or who are out of school but plan to enroll in their first year of higher education are eligible. For complete details see page 59 of this issue.

"HUMAN CAPITAL Shortages: A Threat to American Agriculture," is a new brochure prepared by the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, "to develop scientific, professional and managerial expertise for a strategic U.S. agriculture." The report says more than 59,000 university and college ag graduates are required annually to fill scienfitic, professional and managerial positions; but each year the ag industry experiences a 13 percent shortfall of qualified individuals.

THE ROSE BOWL Parade and FFA don't always have much in common, but they will this year. Sunkist Growers, Inc., have decided to include two FFA members to ride on the company's 50-foot float at this year's parade. The float will represent nearly $80,000 worth of construction and fresh flowers, and will be viewed over national television.

NATIONAL FFA LEADERS from across the nation convened at the National FFA Center for their annual July Board of Directors meeting to discuss items of importance to FFA members. Here are highlights of that meeting:

- Agricultural proficiency and American Farmer Degree application forms will be placed on floppy discs for students to use with microcomputers, and will be available from Apple and Radio Shack through the National FFA Supply Service in the fall of 1984.
- The new National Forestry contest was approved to be sponsored through the National FFA Foundation, Inc. and will begin in 1985.
- The Board moved to eliminate the National FFA Milk Quality and Dairy Foods Judging Contest, and the National FFA Poultry Judging Contest by 1985.

PHASE II OF FFA'S BOAC (Building Our American Communities) program was recently initiated, providing incentives for individual awards to FFA members. Up until this year, the BOAC program had been limited to chapter recognition only. Now, the top chapter member and advisor from each state-winning BOAC chapter will participate in an annual National FFA Conference on Community Development held in Washington, D.C. each September. At press time this year's winners had not been announced, but the field had been narrowed to these ten states: Arizona, California, Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

DOUG BUTLER, of Gilcrest, Colorado, recently joined the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee Staff as an assistant Executive Director. Mr. Butler is a former state FFA officer and has been a vo-ag instructor since 1977. He holds a bachelor's and a master's degree from Colorado State University.

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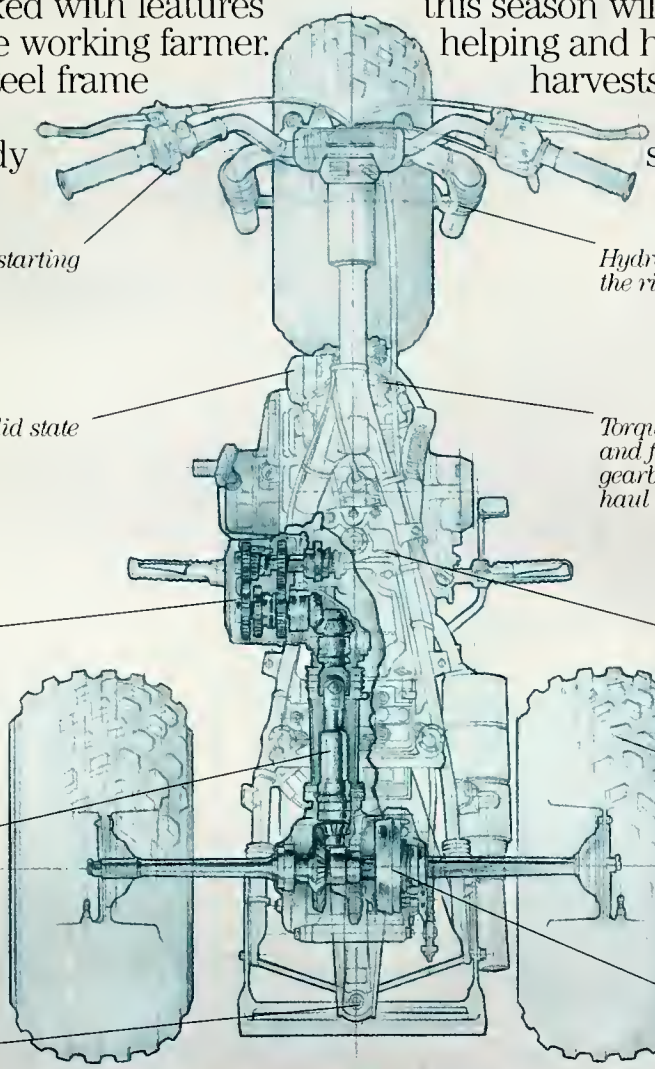

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Trends in Agriculture

Looking Ahead

STAR WARS? Lasers on satellites won't replace the cow or plow, but they could some day help farmers reap better harvests. According to USDA officials, a unique project is currently underway at the Department of Agriculture to use lasers to "excite" surface molecules of substances without destroying them. The substances, in this case, are the leaves of corn and soybean plants—and the purpose of exciting surface molecules is to detect nutrient-deficient crops. Researchers say plants suffering from malnutrition have already been successfully detected by a laser which emitted a beam of ultraviolet light from miles above the ground.

HANDICAPPED FARMERS will be interested in reading *Breaking New Ground,* a newsletter for farmers with physical disabilities published by the Department of Agricultural Engineering at Purdue University. The newsletter features special events, special equipment, new programs and feature stories on handicapped farmers. For more information contact the department at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907.

IMPLANTS AND FEED additives are standard management tools for cattlemen, according to *Doane's Agricultural Report.* Among other reasons, they can boost animal performance and reduce the cost of producing beef. Next time you implant, watch for these common mistakes:

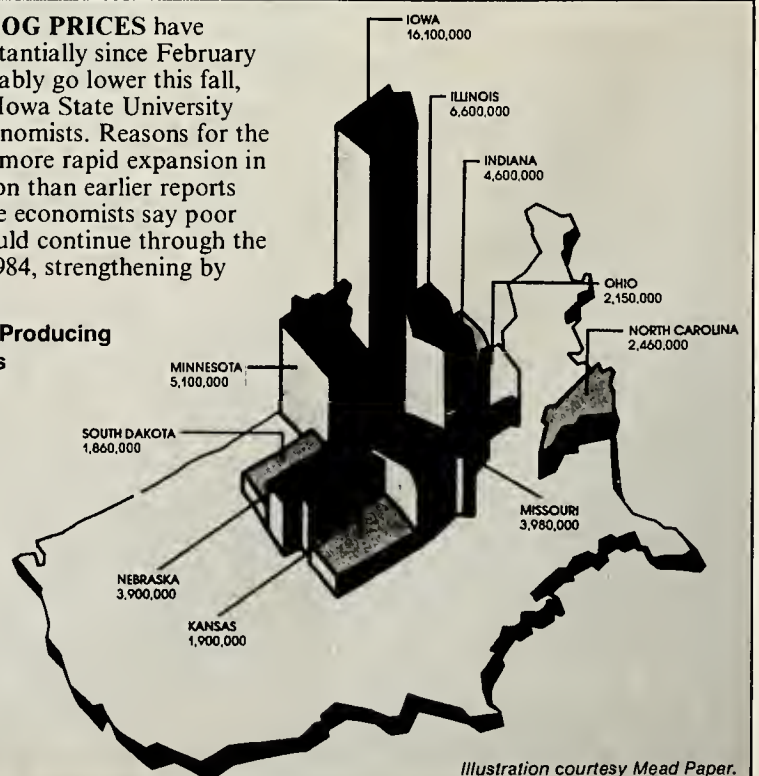
- Facilities inadequate to properly restrain animal.
- Placing implant too far from the base of the ear.
- Crushing pellets from failing to withdraw the needle slightly as the pellets are deposited.
- Using dull or dirty needles.

FARMERS ARE MORE satisfied with their jobs than you think, according to a joint study conducted by a leading agricultural public relations firm and Iowa State University researchers. The survey found that an overwhelming majority of farmers—90 percent—said they were satisfied with farming as an occupation. But satisfaction does not necessarily indicate optimism: the study also shows 50 percent of the farmers viewed the overall outlook for farming as only fair or "not good at all." Almost two-thirds saw it unlikely that they would increase their farming operation over the next five years.

FARM IMPORTS ARE UP: The United States is not only the world's largest exporter of ag products—it also is one of the largest importers of such products, say extension specialists at North Carolina State University. During the first eight months of fiscal 1983 imports of farm goods were valued at $11.1 billion, an increase of 8 percent over imports the previous year.

MARKET HOG PRICES have dropped substantially since February and will probably go lower this fall, according to Iowa State University extension economists. Reasons for the price drop: a more rapid expansion in hog production than earlier reports indicated. The economists say poor hog prices could continue through the first half of 1984, strengthening by July.

Leading Hog-Producing States in Hogs Per Year



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The Mailbag

Plattenville, Louisiana

I am just writing this letter to compliment your magazine.

A couple of days before I received the June-July issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER* I was seriously thinking of quitting the FFA altogether. But reading your article "Beating the Odds in Agribusiness" on page 18 somehow gave me a new hope to continue in the FFA and try my best to make it to the top.

Sandra Campo

Danvers, Massachusetts

I am writing this letter in response to what I thought was an embarrassing moment in FFA history. I am talking about the picture and article that appeared in the June-July, 1983, issue on page 40. The picture shows the national president thanking and supporting the Coca-Cola Company.

I thought the FFA's interests were geared more towards agriculture and its different fields, which includes the dairy industry. The dairy industry is having a tough enough time now without the FFA, an organization that is supposed to help agriculture grow, go and support a product that is hurting dairymen across the country.

How about asking the American Dairy Association to sponsor a program for the FFA instead of Coca-Cola? Let's show some support for the dairy industry and the people who work hard to produce a nutritious product. If the young people in agriculture can't, then who will?

Michael Richard

The FFA's interests are geared more toward agriculture and its different fields. But that doesn't mean other large companies can't support FFA. The National FFA Foundation, Inc. offers the opportunity to sponsor FFA programs to any and all companies. As a result of Coca-Cola's interest and support, FFA members have a new 30-minute film which captures the excitement at the National FFA Convention. Companies in the dairy industry were offered the same opportunity.—Ed.

Peebles, Ohio

I couldn't believe the August-September issue "Smart As A Fox" from Dwain Adams of Middletown, Indiana. I hope he realizes that there are a lot of people including me that are very much against such cruelty. The fox is a beautiful asset to our country and they deserve the right to live. What kind of life is it for them to live in a tiny cage waiting to be killed and worn as a coat on someone's shoulders? Someday a law will be passed to stop people who find pleasure in killing animals for unnecessary purposes.

Julie Sullivan

State College, Pennsylvania

I liked the article I read called "High Hopes" on page 26 of the August-September issue. It was about a girl named Tammie McDaniel who is a big breeder in Quarter horses. I was interested because Tammie works with and shows horses like I do. Being a horse breeder myself I have plans and set goals too. I think everyone should, but most of all you have to work hard to get where you're going. Working, living on a farm, working with the horses and other livestock and FFA are helping me set my goals.

Gib C. Corl

Okeana, Ohio

I am a vo-ag/FFA student and I receive the magazine. I had to write and inform you I have a complaint. In the articles about young people and their horses, you seem to only write about the ones who own many horses and who have won the horse proficiency award.

What about the "little guy?" I own two Arabian horses of my own and I board my boyfriend's colt. I have a job so I can support my horses myself. I train these horses myself, with a little help from a good friend. My family only owns three acres and we love these horses more than anything.

"Many farmers across the country don't understand conservation practice, and the future farmers need to understand this major part of agriculture. After all, some day we will be the farmers of this nation..."

I congratulate the young people who won the awards, but I find it hard to believe these people had to save every penny they earned to buy their first horse or first saddle.

Carrie Scheidt

Kimball, Minnesota

I would like to commend you and your staff on the article "Reduced Tillage: The Wave of the Future" (August-September, 1983, page 14).

Many farmers across the country don't understand conservation practices and the future farmers need to understand this major part of agriculture. After all, some day we will be the farmers of this nation and we'll need to understand reduced tillage.

Paul Osterberg

Westfield, Pennsylvania

I was very pleased with the article "Ag Journalism" on page 32 of the August-September issue. Until now I was undecided on what to continue my schooling as. I love to write and I served as our chapter reporter this past year. Recently I serve as vice president and a senior at my high school. I wondered if there were any way that you could send me more information about ag journalism.

Donna Patterson

We suggest you contact the Land Grant University or other agricultural colleges in your state for more information. Some ag colleges do not have an ag communications curriculum; you may have to look out of state.—Ed.

St. Charles, Minnesota

I enjoyed reading your article in the June-July issue about the FFA's Star Agribusinessmen. I am, however, very concerned about the image portrayed by one of the accompanying pictures on page 18. Your photographer, Bill Stagg, did an excellent job as far as quality of the pictures and composition. However, the picture in the upper right-hand corner shows very little evidence of following approved safety practices.

Safety practice violations shown in the picture are 1) welding goggles not being used, 2) no eye protection, 3) no protective clothing on arms, and 4) pointing cutting flame towards the acetylene regulator.

People in agri-industry (many of whom contribute to the FFA Foundation, etc.) are also concerned with the apparent disregard for safety in both the publications of the FFA and the pictures accompanying some national proficiency award applications.

As a suggestion, why not have a safety engineer or vo-ag teacher check over the pictures before publication to see if the activities depicted conform to approved safety practices. This should create a better public image of what is being taught and stressed in vo-ag programs.

Gary Sands

In the photo, Elmer Zimmerman was preparing to use an acetylene torch for cutting metal. He was not welding. His protective goggles were fastened around his cap, ready to be lowered after he had adjusted the flame. The telephoto lens used for the photo compacted the image; the flame was actually ten feet from the acetylene regulator. We try to depict realistic safety practies in photos whenever possible in *The National FUTURE FARMER*.—Ed.

Send letters or notes (be sure it's legible) with name, address and chapter to: MAILBAG, The National FUTURE FARMER, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. All letters are subject to editing.

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The Basque Heritage

This Wyoming sheep rancher hopes to follow in the proud family tradition of his ancestors.

Above, George loads shelled corn into a portable feeder attached to his pickup truck.

"I FEEL proud to be one of the Basque, and to continue the tradition of raising sheep," says George Pierre Etchemendy, of Lost Springs, Wyoming. "There aren't too many of us left."

Those simple words from 19-year-old George are the basis for one FFA member's pride in his family background. And it's also one reason why this American Farmer Degree candidate wants to continue operating his family's successful sheep ranch in the future.

George's family hails from the Basque (pronounced "bask") country, a tiny region located in France and Spain. "My grandparents lived in the Pyrennes Mountains," he says. "Over there, the oldest child inherits the ranch or farm. But my grandfather was one of the youngest, so he and my grandmother came to America in the 1920's. They were looking for something better."

George's grandparents settled in Colorado and started a sheep ranch. Twenty years later they bought a ranch in Wyoming, moving the sheep with them. George says, "Raising sheep was a natural for them, because that's what they did over there—raise sheep, milking them to make cheese . . . It was just something they knew how to do."

Today, the Etchemendy family continues the sheep-raising tradition which began so many years ago. Six thousand acres of rangeland handles 1,200 head of Rambouillet-Columbia cross sheep, plus a 200-acre dryland farm which provides corn and hay to supplement rations during lambing season. George also owns cattle, some horses and broilers. He earned the western region diversified livestock proficiency award this year.

George, from the Douglas, Wyoming, FFA Chapter, sees a double advantage to the Rambouillet-Columbia cross flock. "Black-faced sheep will usually

(Continued on Page 24)

Reach for new horizons.

It's never easy. But reaching for new horizons is what aiming high is all about. Because to reach for new horizons you must have the vision to see things not only as they are, but as they could be. You must have the dedication to give the best you have. And you must have the courage to accept new challenges.

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AIR FORCE

A great way of life.

Make Roo

By Michael Wilson

STEP aside, closet chauvinists. Have we got a treat for you.

Her name is Angela Bos (formerly Angela Fulp), and she's the 1982 National FFA Dairy proficiency winner. She's the first female to capture the dairy award in FFA history—and she did it with the same kind of enthusiasm, dedication and dairy management skills former national winners have exhibited. Except this time, a young lady is up on stage accepting the award.

You scoff. "How could a *girl* win..." you secretly say to yourself. If that's the case, it's time to wake up and smell the coffee. Girls in FFA—and girls in farming—have been making a positive impact on agriculture for quite some time now. And although she *is* a young lady—guys, listen up—she's also a "farm-tough" country girl who's been through plenty of 4 a.m. milking sessions. Twenty-year-old Angela, from Aurora, Missouri, knows more about managing a dairy herd than, well, a lot of people in agriculture today.

It's been a challenging but satisfying road travelled since her first dairy cow in third grade, when her interest in the dairy began. "When I got into vo-ag I decided to increase my project," she says, "so I bought five more heifers and got involved in showing. Showing helps you grow better cattle, because it gives

Photos By Author

Above, calf-feeding time for Angela; right, a milking session begins in the dairy's walk-through parlor; center right, Angela eartags calves with assistance from her husband Albert Bos (left) and her father Gary Fulp; far right, running a test for mastitis.

n For The Lady

Through hard work and accurate record keeping, this young lady built a top-notch dairy herd and captured an award that, up until now, had been exclusively "all male."

you incentive to raise the best calf possible."

She set two goals that Greenhand year: to serve as Aurora FFA's first girl chapter president; and to someday earn the national proficiency award in dairy production.

Angela picked up much of her dairy knowledge on the family farm where she and her father milk 100 registered Brown Swiss and Holstein cows, run 150 replacement heifers and keep 15 bulls. Angela owns one-fourth of the herd.

The Fulps also farm 400 acres of owned and rented ground, most of it in corn and alfalfa hay chopped and put in silos for the herd.

Like most dairy farmers, Angela is not afraid to get her hands dirty. But she also knows the value of "working smarter, not harder." She practices it through meticulous record keeping skills she learned in vocational agriculture classes.

"When I first started out, my numbers weren't that big. But our advisor Mr. (Jim) Golding (now retired) made sure we kept all records down to the finest detail," she recalls. "He would make me keep individual records on each cow, how much grain they ate, production figures.... When it came time to close out the books everything had to be perfect."

Angela soon realized how accurate records could benefit her herd. "The whole point of keeping records is useless if they're not going to be accurate," she says. "It's the only way you can see if you're making money or losing money."

Angela also gets management advice through the DHIR (Dairy Herd Improvement Registry), a monthly dairy testing system. The Fulp/Bos herd is signed up for DHIR, and each month all cows are tested, butterfat samples are taken, income over feed costs are calculated and production figures analyzed. It's just a sample of the management figures that are analyzed. "It's especially helpful with older cows, knowing which ones to cull from the herd," adds Angela.

"The whole point of keeping records is useless if they're not going to be accurate. It's the only way you can see if you're making money or losing money."

The farm is equipped with a parlor barn and regular walk through set-up, with a low-line pipeline that decreases vacuum resulting in less irritation to cows' udders. Corn silage and haylage are fed out of one oxygen-free and one cement silo. "One thing an oxygen-free silo does is provide haylage high in protein," says Angela. "We'll take samples out of the silo and then adjust our grain ration as to the amount of protein the cows should get." When she's not milking or feeding, Angela usually finds herself in the field raking hay or chopping silage.

Growing up on the farm was a big plus for Angela. "My dad's the type who changes with the times," she says. She worked on the home farm through her high school's work placement program half-days during her junior and senior year. But as Angela ruefully admits, no special favors were allowed. "Just because I was the boss's daughter didn't make any difference," she laughs. "Dad treated me just like a hired hand. If I messed up he probably yelled at me *more* than anyone else!"

Angela's father saw that his daughter had more than a passing interest in the herd. When it came time for her to borrow money to expand, he readily co-signed the loan. "He didn't have to do that," she reflects, "but he did. He and mom helped me all they could."

Angela made an impact in vo-ag class during her first year, when she won Star Greenhand. "The guys put the girls down for being in FFA," she remembers. "I wanted to prove to them I was just as good as them." She remembers how she felt when she learned of her election as chapter president.

"I had to gain the chapter's respect first, so I really got in there and worked." she recalls. "I guess I broke the ice for our chapter—they've elected a girl as chapter president three years in a row since then."

For most, earning the national FFA dairy award would be the highlight of the year. But Angela had something else to be excited about this past year—romance. She recently married Albert Bos, who, coincidentally, is also a vo-ag instructor, and is also, coincidentally, a dairy enthusiast. His family runs a herd of 80 Holsteins at nearby Billings, Missouri.

Cheer up, fellows, there'll be others, and well there should be. The FFA can be proud of members like Angela Bos—those who aren't afraid to set goals and make achievements in a field that *used* to be considered "all male." •••

Keeping Vo-Ag Out of "The

Like it or not, improving the image of your school's vo-ag department through public relations can increase support for your FFA chapter and insure your program's existence.

SUPPORT for vocational agriculture is something FFA leaders say they just can't have enough of in these turbulent times for vocational education.

Today, with funding cutbacks, teacher layoffs, department closings and stricter academic requirements, it seems like vocational education is getting pushed into a dusty corner.

Stricter academic requirements, a result of the "back to basics" movement, mean increasing the number of years of basic academic courses (such as math and science) a student is required to complete for graduation. So students end up taking fewer elective classes, such as vocational agriculture. Changing priorities in state and federal funding programs have made teacher layoffs and program cutbacks a grim reality for some schools, even those in big production agriculture areas.

Some FFA members are feeling the pinch already. One student had to drop vo-ag because he couldn't take it and meet college-prep requirements also. One vo-ag instructor, whose contract was reduced from 11 to 9 months, worries that his students' SOE programs will suffer over the summer.

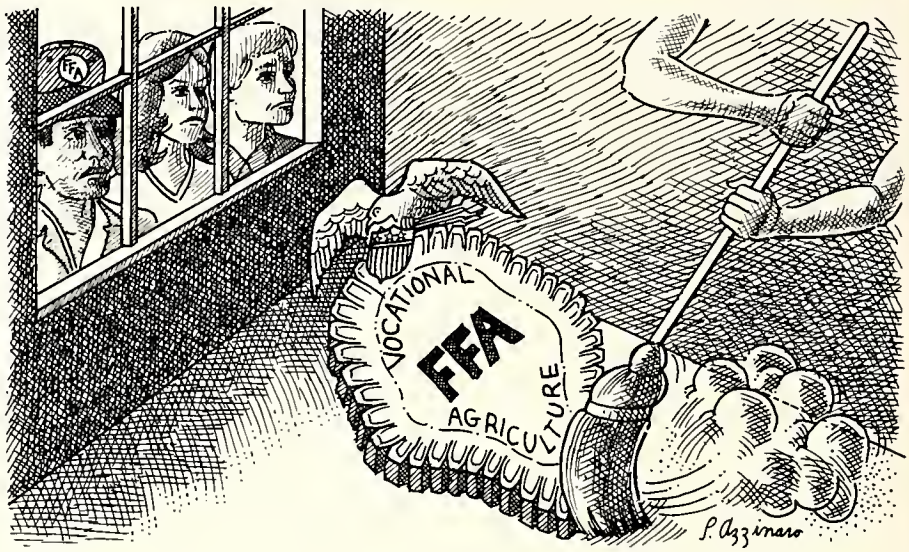
Simply put, public relations is making sure the public knows the value, benefits and merits of—in this case—vocational agriculture. If the right people know about your program and its results you can bet you'll get strong support.

Such strong support was not evident in the case of Alexis I. du Pont High School in Delaware. Alexis I. du Pont is a suburban school that caters to college prep students; over 76% of the school's graduates go on to college. Vocational education is not highly emphasized.

When graduation requirements were increased for math and science courses elective options had to be reduced. Vocational agriculture, the school's smallest elective, was expensive to run. Enrollment had slipped to 59 students. It was no surprise, then, that the vocational agriculture program was dropped.

Only three members of the school's FFA chapter attended the Board of Education's meeting to protest the department's closing. "The program lacked visibility in the community," says school Principal Alfred DiEmedio, honorary FFA state farmer. "So the chapter lacked community support to keep the program on the curriculum."

The situation at Alexis I. du Pont might have turned out differently if the FFA chapter had done a better job generating support for their program. These challenges, however, are not limited to changing academic requirements. Reorganization of funding for vocational education is forcing some school districts to cut back vocational programs.



And the problems aren't limited to Delaware. Many states considered vo-ag and FFA strongholds are having problems too. Early this year Illinois was hit with large cutbacks in education funding. Many schools did not know

PSA Campaign a Firs

The 1984 FFA theme "Keeping America on the Grow" is more than just another catchy FFA phrase. It's the simple idea on which the FFA organization's first nationwide public relations campaign is based.

And increased support for vocational agriculture is what national FFA leaders are anticipating when the campaign gets into full swing early next year.

The campaign features public service announcements (PSAs) which will appear on television, radio and in newspapers and magazines across the country to give the Future Farmers of America nationwide exposure.

PSAs are brief announcements containing information of general interest to the public. Media present the announcements free of charge for nonprofit organizations such as FFA.

"We felt the need had never been greater for a campaign of this nature," says Cameron Dubes, FFA Director of Information and coordinator for the project. Mr. Dubes stresses that, "recent developments in agriculture and vocational education make it important for the public to be aware of the value of vocational agriculture and FFA." The PSAs are only one-third of the total campaign; The new FFA audio-visual theme show, sponsored by The Wrangler Brand, and FFA WEEK materials, sponsored by Estech, Inc., round out the effort.

The PSAs are sponsored by the National FFA Foundation's general fund, feature Eddie Albert of "Green Acres" fame and members from Virginia's Culpeper and California's Escondido FFA Chapters. Mr. Albert, who usually commands over $25,000 per day for commercials, donated his time to the FFA.

"America is number one in agriculture because of a simple idea: in the past we have invested in young people who are

Dusty Corner"

By John Dutcher

just how much state funding they would lose. As a result, "some schools did a little panic pink-slipping (firing)," says Eldon E. Witt, Illinois FFA executive secretary.

One such pink-slipping took place at Galesburg High School, where a one-teacher vo-ag program was eliminated. Galesburg is just a few miles from Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block's home town. But in this case, good public relations paid off.

John Connor, a 14-year vocational agriculture teacher at Galesburg, was one of 40 teachers in the school district to lose jobs. Mr. Connor received his pink slip on a Friday; it was "standing room only" at the board of education meeting on Monday. Members of the local FFA Alumni Club, community and business leaders filled the room to protest the loss of Mr. Connor's job and the department's closing.

The program was re-opened three weeks later.

Support like this is no accident. The Galesburg FFA Chapter uses its media contacts to promote both individual and chapter activities. The chapter takes time to thank individuals who help out each year by hosting alumni, Illinois FFA and parent/ member banquets.

Mr. Connor also effectively uses the chapter's FFA advisory board. "If your program is built for the community the support will be there, especially from alumni," Mr. Connor says.

Media Exposure

One key element behind the Galesburg Chapter's success is media exposure—making sure local newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations are aware of the chapter's activities. Besides these efforts, many chapters invite local media to attend class field trips, community efforts and SOE visits.

"Vocational agriculture sells itself," comments one ag teacher. "All you have to do is make sure people see the results of the program. Bragging about your program and the FFA is essential if you want the community to know what's going on in the classroom and the chapter."

Generating support within your school through the school newspaper, announcements, activities or school improvement projects can be a big help—especially if the school administration isn't aware of these efforts.

Your chapter can also generate strength in numbers by exposing incoming freshmen and other potential members to the FFA and vo-ag.

Every chapter has special public relations needs. And no two FFA chapters are alike. But in general, four groups should be kept aware of your activities:

- local media
- school adminstrators
- alumni, parents and community groups
- incoming freshmen or other potential FFA members

Your national FFA organization offers various tools for your use in public relations activities, such as slide shows, FFA WEEK promotion materials, *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine and the FFA calendar program.

Perhaps more importantly, members should set a good personal example. This includes wearing official FFA dress at appropriate FFA functions and following the FFA code of ethics (in your Official FFA Manual). One student puts it this way: "as FFA members, we need to be constant examples to verify the effectiveness of vocational agriculture programs." •••

for FFA

today leading the world in agriculture," says Mr. Albert in the PSAs which appear in 60-, 30-, 20-and 10-second lengths.

ALBERT: "America is number one in agriculture because of a simple idea: in the past we have invested in young people who are today leading the world in agriculture."

Above, Eddie Albert "on location" with FFA members in Virginia.

The PSAs will be premiered at the National FFA Convention before an audience of 22,000 FFA members before they are shown nationwide in January.

The television announcements were shot on location at rural areas in Virginia and California by United Way of America. The PSAs will be made available to all state television stations through vocational agriculture teachers appointed by each state's Executive Secretary.

Radio announcements will be sent to all National Association of Farm Broadcasters (NAFB) members and to the top 100 radio markets in major metropolitan areas. Chapters can purchase a PSA for their local radio station from the National FFA Supply Service for $2.50.

PSAs will also be sent to 8,000 newspapers and 600 agricultural magazines across the country.

Mr. Dubes says he is counting on FFA chapters to encourage their local media to "run" the announcements. "We need strong local support to make this campaign as big of a success as it can be," he says. •••

A Tour For The Winners

Becoming a national FFA winner has its advantages. How does a dream-come-true tour of European agriculture grab you?

By Michael Wilson

Photos by Author

FOR most people, an all-expenses-paid trip to Europe is a fantasy.

But for 22 Future Farmers of America, Europe, with all its majesty and splendor, became a fantasy-come-true last May during an expense-paid 17-day journey through six European countries to study European agricultural practices.

These were no ordinary FFA members, mind you. After endless hours of labor, record keeping and interviewing on the local, state and national level, these select few vo-ag students had earned national recognition as the top FFA member in their field, in areas ranging from horses to horticulture. The National FFA Foundation, Inc., in an effort to salute the FFA'ers excellence and dedication, pays for the entire trip.

Counterclockwise from above: one of several highlights, FFA members saw the spectacular Eiffel Tower in Paris, France; the tour group gathers for a group shot beneath a Dutch windmill; new cattle feeding methods; plus some farm operations similar to their own; an English Young Farmer Advisor gives a farm tour; an FFA'er gets some friendly advice during a European "host" family stay; moments of silent reflection during visits to American war cemeteries.

And the tour itself is not just for sight-seeing, says Bob Seefeldt, program specialist for awards and tour leader. FFA members are given the opportunity to broaden their perspective and appreciation for world agriculture through real-life visits with European families and farmers. "The trip is an extension of the students' SOE program," says Mr. Seefeldt. "First, students learn about agriculture in their own community through SOE programs. We extend that experience by giving them a chance to see what agriculture is like in the world community."

The tour accomplished this goal by using the same approach used in all vo-ag activities—through "hands-on" experience.

This was the fifth year the National FFA Foundation has sponsored such a tour. After gathering at the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia for an orientation, this year's 22 award-winners traveled by bus to JFK International Airport in New York. For the first of many times the tour group exchanged American dollars for foreign currency. After saying goodbye to American soil, a jumbo jet airliner whisked them away to Paris, where a new world awaited.

"What is Europe? It's the Eiffel Tower, a ride through the beautiful French countryside, an ornate medieval palace, the brilliant yellow color of a rape field in bloom..."

In Paris, FFA'ers gathered their luggage and presented passports to officials for the first of many times to come. The tour, which took the group through France, England, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany, was filled with both familiar and unfamiliar sights. The Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and the Palace of Versailles in France; and the London Bridge, Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle in England, for example, were easily recognized. But a different language in each country made communication difficult. Reading a menu became a challenge—and an adventure, for some. Fortunately, interpreters were hired to translate for the FFA members.

The group's first glance at European agriculture came during a visit to a 425-acre wheat, sugar beet and vegetable farm outside of Paris. With help from the interpreter, the FFA members managed to learn much about a typical French farming operation by asking questions of the patient French farmer. The group was given a free hand to explore his farm from top to bottom. It was the first of several such "farm adventures" throughout the tour. These on-farm visits included everything from dairy and swine to crops, cattle and cheese factories. They gave FFA members the best learning experiences, for it was here they were able to "see it for themselves."

"What is Europe? It's windmills and wooden shoe factories; a boat tour along the canals of Rotterdam; Dutch dairy farmers with warm smiles; discovering common beliefs between farmers worldwide..."

For most FFA members, the highlight of the tour came in England and Holland, where each FFA member spent two days and two nights with a "host" family—actually living with families in their homes. Meals, shopping, pitching in with the chores were experiences which gave tour members hands-on exposure to cultures of another land, allowing both student and host a chance to learn more about each other's countries and establish life-long friendships.

From these overnight stays FFA members learned that, world-wide, most farmers and agribusinessmen faced common challenges and reaped the same rewards from their work. In Holland, the group met with potato farmers, who worried that high amounts of rainfall would delay planting. In Germany, young farmers grimly pointed out how several acres of pasture and hay were underwater due to flooding along the Rhine and Mozel Rivers.

A bond of friendship, sparked by a common interest in agriculture, seemed to grow between the Europeans and Americans, in spite of the short time for visits. Sometimes they had trouble communicating; but each FFA member soon learned that smiles and handshakes speak a universal language.

"What is Europe? It's a visit to Cheddar, England, where cheddar cheese was first made; driving on the other side of the road; playing a game of 'skittles' with a friendly group of young farmers..."

In Holland, the tour was welcomed to the Aalsmeer United Flower Auctions—the world's largest flower auction. Held five days a week, the auction takes place in a huge complex covering an area larger than 50 football fields. About nine million flowers and 700,000 plants arrive daily, totalling 2.3 billion cut flowers and 174 million plants sold each year.

The FFA'ers marvelled at the mighty land-engineering feats of the Dutch people, which enable them to farm "polders," land that has been reclaimed from the sea. In 1927 half of Holland was covered by water; now, only 30 percent of the country is under water. Although most of the windmills in Holland are no longer used, a few still actively pump water. And some Dutch folks still wear wooden shoes!

"What is Europe? It's green, rolling meadows; a lighthouse off the North Sea coast; the farmer who patiently explains how he farms his land; the 600-year-old stone farmhouse where my host family lives..."

Some farm visits enabled European hosts to show off the latest in agricultural technology. One FFA'er toured a research farm during his host family visit. He saw an experimental dairy operation where five herds with five different milking parlors were going through feeding trials. In one barn all the cows wore neckbands which only allowed them to eat at certain stalls, operated by a computerized sensor.

"What is Europe? It's realizing that even though we come from different countries and backgrounds, we may all hold some of the same beliefs..."

In Germany, a Young Farmer Club treated the FFA group to a reception and dance, complete with Bratwurst. This provided a forum for exchanging ideas on agricultural methods and world events. The Americans soon realized that the German farmers were just as curious about them as the Americans were about Europeans.

The tour offered moments of reflection for FFA members during visits to American war cemeteries in Luxembourg and Omaha Beach, France, site of the World War II American landing. Rows and rows of white gravemarkers stirred feelings of patriotism, as the FFA members silently remembered Americans who fought for freedom in Europe so many years ago.

After 17 days of travelling, visiting and learning it was time to head home. After their arrival in Washington, D.C., the FFA proficiency tour members held a congressional breakfast to relay some of what they had learned to their elected congressmen. Each FFA member carried back his or her own memories of the tour; but as a team, each realized it was an experience few would ever forget. Those long hours of record keeping really had paid off! •••

Basque

(Continued from Page 14)

gain faster and have more meat, but with these big-boned white face, we also get the wool production," he says. George started with 20 ewes as a freshman in high school, and currently runs 125 head. The ewes are put with rams to begin lambing in March, and lambs are marketed in October "or whenever the market comes back up," he says.

George says he's been forced to cut back on sheep and to raise more cattle because of harsh winters and coyote attacks on the flock. Even so, he plans to return to the ranch once he's completed a four-year degree in ag-business. "I just like being around animals," he says with enthusiasm. "I get a feeling of self-satisfaction."

George Etchemendy, Sr., who speaks Basque fluently, also hopes his son will continue the family tradition. He says the Basque people migrated here "because there were no jobs left over there." He's concerned that the Basque heritage in America is slowly dwindling because, as he puts it, "If there's more than one kid in the family they can't expand enough to cover it." It's the same phenomena many farm families in America face.

Mr. Etchemendy says it's more difficult today to find people rugged enough to raise sheep in wide open, rugged territory like Wyoming. "Nowadays, if you have many sheep you have to hire people. But you can't find anybody that will get out, stay out and herd sheep like they used to. Everybody's done away with the herders.

"It takes a tough individual," he says. "You've got to be dedicated."

Fortunately for Mr. Etchemendy, his son *is* dedicated—and tough enough to handle the challenges that confront today's sheep rancher. What's more, George's pride in his unique family background make this a tradition he looks forward to upholding for many years to come. •••

Below, George sees to it that all ewes are fed a corn, hay and mineral supplement during lambing season.

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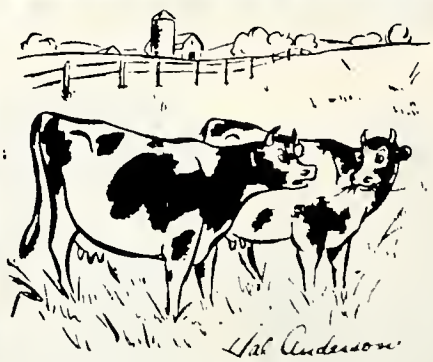

"If they're going to pasteurize it, homogenize it, and vitaminize it, I say let THEM make it."

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National Advisor Retires

"I can think of no other career that has paralleled the one which I have had working for the young people of America through FFA."

—Byron Rawls, National FFA Advisor, 1979-83

"My most satisfying experience as National Advisor was when I was able to motivate young people to reach beyond what they thought was their potential. My centerpiece has always been to challenge young people to achieve beyond what they think is their potenal."

Those are the words of Byron Rawls, the man who has held FFA's highest office for the past four years as National FFA Advisor. Mr. Rawls retired this past August, ending a career which took him to the top of the FFA organization—a position which only five other men have held in FFA's 55-year history.

"I hope people will remember me as being able to identify with young people," he says, reflecting on a career rich in service to vocational agriculture. "When I meet a student who's confused about the future, I've always hoped I could help him to set his sights on something that will keep him moving, growing and accomplishing."

Mr. Rawls became National Advisor after first serving vo-ag and FFA for many years at the local, state and national levels. He was born in Florida and reared in Alabama. It was in Andalusia, Alabama, where Mr. Rawls became a Pleasant Home FFA Chapter member until his graduation in 1942. He earned Bachelor of Science and Master of Science Degrees in Agricultural Education at Auburn University.

His professional career began, appropriately, as a teacher of vocational agriculture. Mr. Rawls says his days as a student influenced his decision to teach. "As a Greenhand, few things meant more to me than vo-ag class," he recalls. "My vo-ag teacher meant more to me than anybody else."

Mr. Rawls taught vo-ag for ten years before moving to the state level where he served as Alabama's Executive Secretary. He also served as Curriculum Specialist in Agricultural Education for two years.

Beginning in 1966 Mr. Rawls spent over 12 years at the Regional office of the U.S. Office of Education in Kansas City, Missouri. During that time he also served as a member of the National FFA Board of Directors and Board of Trustees.

In 1979, Mr. Rawls became Program Specialist in Agricultural Education in the U.S. Office of Education in Washington, D.C. It was the same year he became FFA's sixth National Advisor (only the second advisor who has been an FFA member himself.)

As National Advisor Mr. Rawls also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for FFA and President of the FFA Foundation Board of Trustees.

Did he ever think one day he'd become National Advisor? "I guess I never dreamed I would be, but my goal has always been to go as far as I could," he reflects. "I was proud when I got the chance to serve. I can think of no other career that has paralleled the one which I have had working for the young people of America through FFA.

"I hope that through carrying out my duties and responsibilities as National Advisor I've been able to add some stability to the organization," he continues. "My activities have been based on nothing but unadulterated pride in the organization and the work of the organizaton. I'm proud of the personal relationships I've developed with the entire FFA community, from the corporate presidents to the engraver in the supply service."

Mr. Rawls holds high hopes for the future of the FFA, in spite of uncertainty in education and agricultural fields today. "I really believe that the atmosphere and attitude is much better now for FFA than it has been in my memory," he says. "I'm encouraged by it. Leaders are recognizing the value of FFA, and I hope that it will continue to be a leader among vocational education student organizations, paving the way, setting the pace. They look to FFA for leadership."

Mr. Rawls now lives in his home town of Andalusia, Alabama, where he hopes to remain active on the state level working in the FFA and vocational agriculture field. •••

Below, Mr. Rawls speaks the advisor's part during opening ceremonies at last year's national FFA convention.

3 months ago he was just a face in the crowd.

Now you can see his confidence and determination in his face. They were developed through tough Marine Corps training. It's where we start. We take young men, good men, and make them better in 11 weeks. Our DIs work with them, lead them and instill

in them pride, confidence and respect—for themselves and others. If you're tired of being a face in the crowd...

Maybe you can be one of us.

The Few.
The Proud.
The Marines.

Marines

The Envelope, Please

Each year FFA honors two American Farmers as Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman of America. As a special preview, we'd like to introduce this year's candidates.

FOR most FFA members, reaching the ultimate goal—the coveted American Farmer Degree, for example—isn't easy.

But for a very select few there's an even higher goal, one that's achieved by only two American Farmers every year: the title of Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman of America.

The following eight FFA members, selected from nearly 750 American Farmer Degree recipients this year, have demonstrated themselves to have the best agricultural production, business and leadership skills of all. The following brief profiles will give you an idea of their SOE programs, farm and agribusiness operations.

Robert Chitwood, 21, of Sulphur, Oklahoma, has been named Western Region Star Farmer. Bob has faced—and overcome—unusual challenges on his way toward the recent FFA achievement. Bob was midway through his SOE program in vocational agriculture when his family was faced with either moving or getting out of the dairy business. His family's 1,000-acre farm had just been condemned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the construction of a lake.

It was no easy task relocating five families, all the dairy equipment and 500 head of Holstein cattle. Bob and his family settled on a 1,120-acre farm near Sulphur, building a new California-style dairy barn and other structures on the site. The new operation exemplifies high technology in agriculture, utilizing a computer system which records individual milk production, heat, breeding and calving dates; a lock-up stanchion system which makes breeding less difficult; and reclaiming wastes with a solids separator.

James Tugend, of Jeromesville, Ohio, has been named Eastern Region Star Farmer, but it won't be the first time James has been on stage at the National FFA Convention. The 21-year-old FFA'er from the Hillsdale Chapter has also been a member of the National FFA Chorus and the winner of the National Dairy Proficiency award.

James began his SOE program by purchasing ten cows and eight heifers to add to the family dairy operation. Since then James has increased his share of the family herd to 28 cows and 19 heifers, and has purchased more land in partnership with his sister, a former FFA member. Through SOE, James says he learned the importance of keeping good records and how those records can aid him in making management decisions.

James is a partner in the 600-acre family farm. He gets some ideas from foreign students who live and work on the family farm through the FFA's WEA (Work Experience Abroad) inbound program. He is currently studying dairy science at Ohio State University.

T.J. Martin, of Lamar, Nebraska, has been named Central Region Star Farmer. Twenty-one-year-old T.J. began his SOE program with 52 feeder steers. The next year he began to raise his own feed after purchasing 320 acres of land. In just five years he expanded his herd to 324 head and leased a neighbor's feedlot to expand his feedlot operation.

Protecting soil from wind and water erosion, and cattle and crops from pests is a major concern of the Imperial FFA member. He plants cover crops to protect sandy soil from wind, and sprays pest breeding grounds such as ditches, fence rows near fields and the feedlot.

T.J. has served as chapter vice president and sentinel. He has earned central region proficiency awards in both beef and crops production, and was named Nebraska Star Farmer in 1980. "Every goal Tab has includes a plan to go with it," says David Hanna, T.J.'s former FFA advisor.

Charles Hillsman, of Watkinsville, Georgia, represents the Southern Region as Star Farmer. Charles, 21, developed an interest in full-time livestock production when he entered vo-ag under the supervision of his instructor and FFA Advisor Kenneth Bridges. "It was evident that he set as his goal the undertaking of every opportunity available to him through his SOE program and the Future Farmers of America," says Mr. Bridges. Charles began his SOE (Supervised Occupational Experience) program with beef cattle, and has expanded by purchasing 178 acres of land and 67,500 broilers to go along with his 52 head of cattle.

Throughout high school Charles held local chapter offices and participated on judging teams. He showed livestock and helped to charter his local FFA Alumni Chapter. He is a former state vice-president of the Georgia FFA Association, and plans to own and operate his own farm someday in the future.

Clint Albin, of Bush, Louisiana, has been named Southern Region Star Agribusinessman. Clint, who operates "Albin's Greenhouse and Plants," has also earned national proficiency awards in both Nursery Operations and Floriculture.

Clint, 21, entered in partnership with his parents nine years ago, agreeing to supply labor and management in return for financial backing. Although the nursery began as a hobby of 25 plants in the family's backyard, it has sinced evolved into a profitable commercial business, consisting of two 40-foot by 125-foot greenhouses producing over 20,000 baskets of plants per year.

Clint uses his FFA public speaking abilities by giving demonstrations on fern production and "landscaping for energy conservation" to civic groups and nurserymen associations throughout the state. He currently attends Louisiana State University and plans to eventually operate a school of horticulture and own his own production nursery.

Jeff Heidrick of Danville, Illinois, has successfully combined his experiences as a feed sales representative and custom farmer to be named Star Agribusinessman of the Central Region.

The 21-year-old FFA'er from the Bismarck-Henning Chapter began his SOE program with five sows and a small crop operation. Throughout his vo-ag experience, Jeff devoted his efforts to work on the home farm, working his own swine operation and eventually starting his own custom farming service through custom baling. He purchased a hay baler his junior year. He was named Star Farmer of Illinois in 1980.

Disease problems forced Jeff to consider an alternative to the swine operation, and he pursued a position as sales representative for Moorman Manufacturing Company. He led the company's state sales organization in dollar gain his first year. Jeff plans to continue his career as feed salesman and custom operator. *(Continued on Page 49)*

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUNCH COWS FOR A LIVING TO APPRECIATE A WELL MADE BOOT.

If you want to learn about what to look for in a well made pair of boots, you can ask a man who wears them for a living. Or, you can read about it right here.

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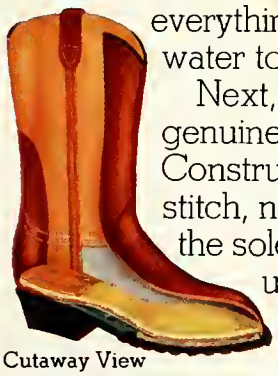
A great boot should not only look good, and feel good, but most of all, last a good long time. We make ours that way starting with the finest, full grained cowhide we can find. Oil-tanned to resist everything from water to acid.



Cutaway View

Next, we use genuine Welt Construction to stitch, not glue, the soles to the uppers. And, we reinforce the inside with a leather kicker that extends up the back of the boot, and a steel "cowboy" shank for solid support.

We build confidence from the gound up.

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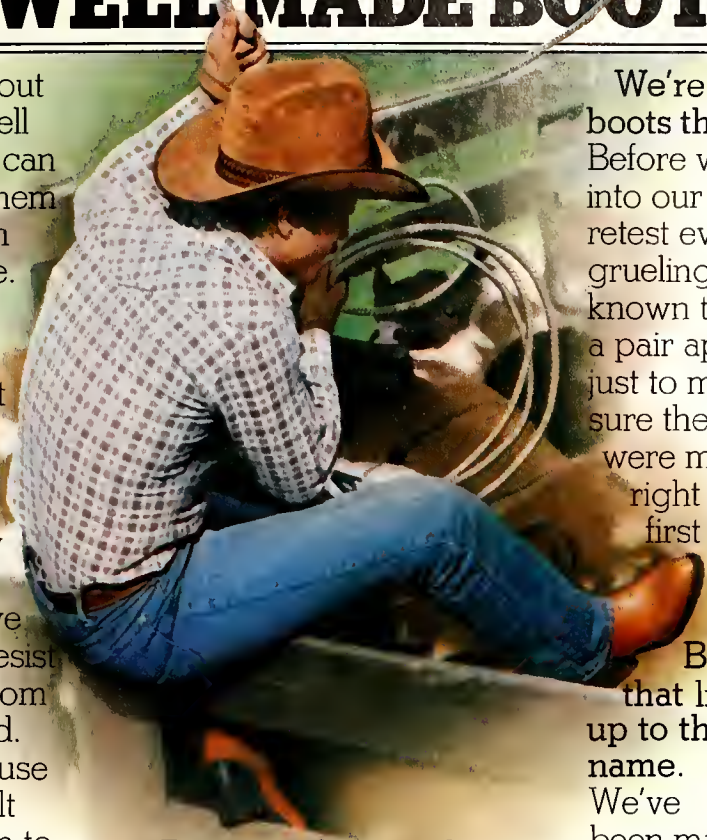

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Before we let you set foot into our boots we test and retest every one. Tests so grueling that we've been known to completely tear a pair apart just to make sure they were made right in the first place.

Boots that live up to their name.

We've been making our boots like that for more than 75 years. And in that time we've earned a reputation for making some of the toughest, best-looking, most comfortable boots in the world. That's a reputation we intend to keep. And, we just won't put our name on anything less.

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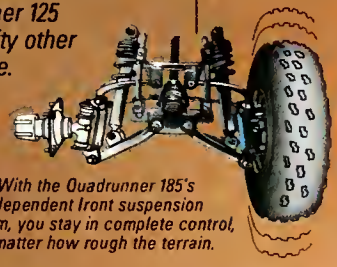
Quadrunner 185.
The only ATV with four wheels, five forward speeds, reverse gear and double A-frame front suspension system.
Quadrunner 125.
The ATV that started the four-wheel revolution, and the first ATV of its kind with an easy-to-use reverse gear.
Our first Quadrunner revolutionized off-roading. Imagine what two more will do.

Just when the makers of those "other" all-terrain vehicles thought they had the three-wheel concept down pat, Suzuki did them one better...with the revolutionary Quadrunner 125.

With its sure-footed four-wheel design, the Quadrunner 125 has the kind of stability other ATVs can only admire. Which means it has the edge on them no matter where it goes...over rocks, snow, sand, hills and hollows.



With the Quadrunner 185's independent front suspension system, you stay in complete control, no matter how rough the terrain.

And when it comes to traversing ridges and ruts, no three-wheeler can touch it.

Not only is the Quadrunner 125 the first ATV of its kind with the stability of four corded floatation tires, it's also the first with an easy-to-use reverse gear. So no matter what you may get yourself into, you can back out with the tug of a lever. And because the power of the torquey 125cc four-stroke engine is channeled through a five forward speed transmission with Power Low gear and an automatic clutch, there are few places a Quadrunner fears to tread.

To make the Quadrunner 125 even better for off-road duty, the '84 comes with a number of important improvements: Like a larger fuel tank with a reserve position on the petcock. A two-stage choke for easy operation in extreme climates. And a fully enclosed rear brake with a cast-aluminum drum. All in the interest of making it better at going anywhere, any way, any time.

Then, Suzuki's four-wheel theory evolved even further. The same engineers that built the Quadrunner 125 began working on a completely new kind of Quadrunner.

The result of their labors? The Quadrunner 185. A four-wheel ATV that started by doing everything our 125 does (including going backwards), then adding a few twists of its own. With nearly 200 cubic centimeters of stump-pulling four-stroke torque. Impressive top end power. And a double A-frame front suspension system that not only works wonders for off-road comfort and handling, but greatly enhances the machine's overall cornering capabilities. So, in addition to giving you exceptional power, the Quadrunner 185 has the kind of sure-footed stability that results in a Sensation of total control.

Then, Suzuki's engineers devised the fun-to-ride Quadrunner 50. It's literally a knee-high replica of the bigger Suzuki Quadrunners, built expressly for young beginning riders, with a stable, four-footed stance that makes it child's play to learn on (as does the no-shift one-speed transmission and automatic clutch).

For first-time riders, there's a unique engine cut-off switch connected to a long, leash-like tether, so mom or dad can keep junior in tow. And like the other Suzuki Quadrunners, there's simply nothing else like it on the face of the Earth.

So, while some companies are still busily trying to come up with their first four-wheeler, Suzuki's already done it three times in a row. Which proves our point nicely: To create a revolution is one thing. But to do it three times over is a Sensation. The Sensation of Suzuki.

Quadrunner 50. The first ATV to introduce first-time riders to four-wheeling.

Optional front and rear racks for the Quadrunner 125 and 185 help turn work into play.

SUZUKI

Quad runner

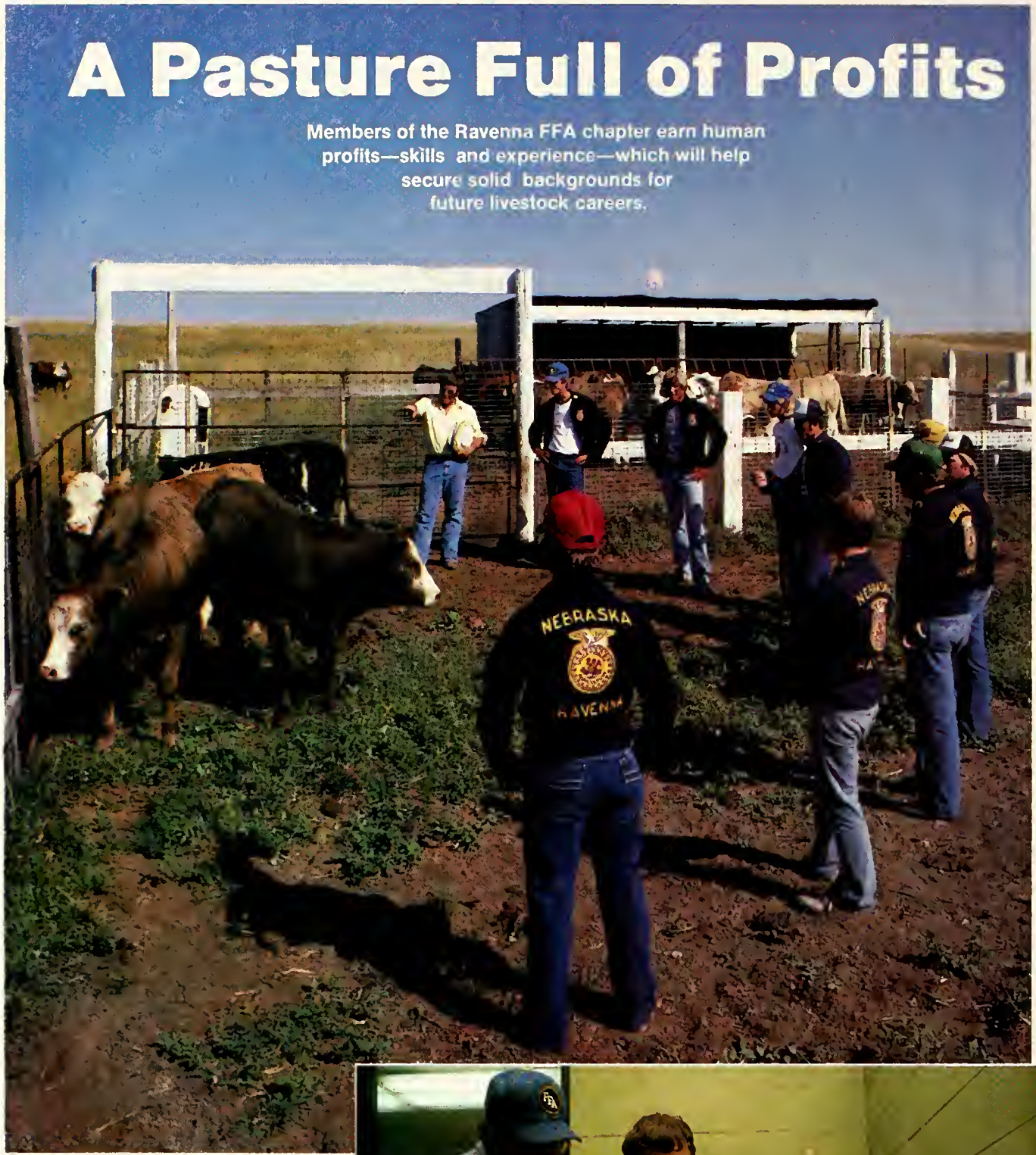
Quadrunner 125 is available now. Quadrunner 50 and 185 available beginning mid-October 1983.

SUZUKI

The Sensation of Suzuki.

A Pasture Full of Profits

Members of the Ravenna FFA chapter earn human profits—skills and experience—which will help secure solid backgrounds for future livestock careers.



Above, members of the Ravenna, Nebraska FFA Chapter hold a mock judging contest as Advisor Kent Zeller offers tips. Right, the chapter analyzes data from the pasture program on the school's microcomputer.

How often does one find a vo-ag program that provides a community service, gives students livestock management experience in a real-life laboratory, teaches microcomputer livestock analysis skills and makes a thousand bucks for the FFA chapter to boot?

The answer: rarely.

But such is the case at the Ravenna, Nebraska, vo-ag department, where the goal is to provide vo-ag students with "human profits" of skills and experiences. And it all begins in a nearby pasture.

Advisor Kent Zeller and his band of 50-plus FFA members annually conduct the FFA Chapter's "Pasture Management" program. Fueled by school administration and community support, this unique learning set-up benefits all who are involved.

With such a success rate, naturally almost everyone *is* involved, from the greenest Greenhand up to the local banking officials.

"It's hands-on experience for the students," says Advisor Zeller, citing the most important benefit of all.

The Ravenna Chapter began leasing a 120-acre pasture from the local school district seven years ago. At the time the land came complete with broken-down fence lines, huge clumps of thistles, a bad case of overgrazing and a hazardous junk yard smack in the middle of it all. The school asked the chapter to pay its lease by cleaning the pasture up and providing all necessary maintenance.

Although initial projects—a new fence, cleaning out the junk pile—have since been taken care of, the members still provide on-going solutions to weed, thistle, grass and any other problems that come up. The chapter built a corral facility that's used in the program.

In return, the chapter rents pasture space to individuals to keep steers on. The charge is 10 cents a pound. "We can put out 13,750 pounds of beef at the beginning of the year on the grass," says Advisor Zeller. "Usually that averages out to about 26 animals. They'll go on pasture May 1 and come out in early October."

UNICK: "Sometimes, even for those of us who work on the farm, dad does the work and you don't get a chance to see how it's done."

The chapter's clientele ranges from FFA members to local townspeople who simply want to support the program. "First preference is FFA members," says Mr. Zeller. "Next, anybody (such as relatives) who has an animal they'd like to have on the program. And third preference is business people. Several businesses will go in on a group effort, where the chapter buys a group of calves and the group 'sponsors' them."

Is the program popular? "We have people on a waiting list," says Mr. Zeller. "It's not that they *need* to have a calf on the pasture, but they want to be in on the program."

Anyone with a calf on the program is charged the same 10-cent per pound rental fee, regardless of profit or loss at the end of the year. If an individual or group wants to sponsor calves, the chapter will go to the local sale barn to purchase, provide trucking to the pasture, and market them at the end of the year at the best price available.

Costs to the chapter include branding, implant and medicine costs, transportation, minerals, feed and pasture maintenance (spraying and fencing materials). But the key benefit is the experience.

"A lot of people have never worked calves before, so they gain a lot," says Dirk Unick, last year's chapter president. "Sometimes, even for those of us who work on the farm, dad does the work and you don't get a chance to see how it's done."

"The students do all the hands-on work of getting the cattle ready to go on pasture. It also provides vet work to those who are inexperienced," echoes Mr. Zeller. Ravenna has their own FFA registered brand which goes on all animals in the program. The advisor says as far as he knows, it's the only registered FFA brand like it.

At the beginning of each season sponsors receive a contract and beginning statistics on the calves. "We have a written agreement with each sponsor," says Mr. Zeller. "That way we can get students accustomed to writing down agreements, provisions and what is expected in terms of a contract."

Throughout the year FFA members keep detailed statistics on each animal, such as weight estimates, costs and health information. Several more "learning by doing" activities will also happen: vaccinating, implanting, estimating weights and using the steers for mock judging contests. The local veterinarian gives demonstrations and provides medicine at cost.

When the calves are marketed price per hundredweight, average daily gain and final weight is tabulated and sent to each sponsor. Mr. Zeller, promoting an "open gate" policy, says "anyone can go up there and check their calves. We welcome their suggestions."

Sponsors and contributors in the community do check on their calves, but not because they doubt the vo-ag students' livestock abilities. "It gets a little competitive among sponsors," says the instructor. "We have guys with Simmentals, Holsteins, Angus, Longhorns, Shorthorns, Charolais—we've had everything in there. Those guys want to know how their steer does and if it made money or not."

This fall the Ravenna Chapter is stepping into the computer age with their learning by doing program. Three FFA members, after taking a computer programing course, created a program that allows the pasture project to be filed and tabulated electronically on the school's microcomputer. "Before that we figured it all out by hand calculating everything in the classroom," says Dirk. "Then we'd give the data sheet to the sponsors so they could see what we are doing."

The chapter has utilized the pasture program to run production tests since its first year. "We've researched, for example, which size steer gains better—a 400-pounder or a 600-pounder," says Mr. Zeller. "We go through and try to evaluate which groups do better and why. I think students can use this info later in their own farming programs."

And that's just what these experiences gained at the school's pasture management program are intended to do—provide students with a background for the future. In the case of Ravenna FFA, the skills and experiences are human profits that will pay dividends for a long time to come. •••

The Ravenna Chapter also earned first place in the Nebraska BOAC program this year. Among several community activities, the chapter organized Arbor Day tree plantings, left, and above, put up name plaques at a retired citizens' home.

Texas Teamwork

This hard-drivin' father/son team have found that "team effort" and enthusiasm for vo-ag can really pay off.

As everyone knows, teaching vo-ag is a full-time profession. With students to visit, judging teams to coach and FFA meetings to attend, life can be pretty busy for an ag teacher.

Life can get pretty busy for vo-ag students too, with all the FFA activities to keep up with.

But Wylie Taliaferro of Scurry, Texas, and his 16-year-old son Chris manage to do more activities—on the farm, in the showring or in the classroom—between them than a chapterful of ag teachers and FFA members put together. These two redefine the word "energetic."

Mr. Taliaferro teaches vo-ag at Scurry-Rosser High School in Texas, where FFA'er Chris is a student. But it's only the beginning of a long list of activities taken on by these two. When Mr. Taliaferro or Chris is not in the classroom, or on a judging trip, or visiting vo-ag students, you're sure to find either one or both of them at the Taliaferro's "Double T" home ranch, tending to the family's 350-head Santa Gertrudis herd.

Or custom plowing and planting crops, all 5,000 acres worth (last year's custom fieldwork average, says Mr. Taliaferro). Or showing cattle at a show somewhere. Or baling hay (most recent estimate: 15,000 round bales and 40,000 square bales per year.) Whew!

Of course, the family hires labor to help manage the ranch. Even with hired hands though, there's still more than enough work to keep up with.

These two have found a secret to maintaining such a schedule: a deep-rooted dedication and enthusiasm to FFA, which serves as the primary source of energy for both teacher and student, both father and son. Chris takes his father's lead, demonstrating as much enthusiasm for vo-ag and FFA as his dad has for teaching it. When Mr. Taliaferro is gone for one reason or another—and plenty of reasons can come up with such a schedule—Chris handles all the responsibilities at home, providing yet another clue behind the twosome: teamwork.

"Both of us know what has to be done," says Mr. Taliaferro. "Chris takes care of the place when I'm gone, feeding, watering, grinding feed. And when I'm gone, I never worry about anything. In fact, the only trouble I ever had with him was making him wait to join FFA before he could get one of those blue jackets."

With Chris, taking care of the livestock is a natural. He, like the rest of the family (younger sister Sheri and Mom Loretta) is an avid showman, and spends many hours grooming and training show steers.

"The only trouble I ever had with him was making him wait to join FFA before he could get one of those blue jackets."

The Taliaferros put their show steers on a ground oats and corn, hay and supplement ration. They also provide pasture for the herd.

Mr. Taliaferro became interested in Santa Gertrudis cattle when he attended college several years ago. He bought a bull and planned to crossbreed with the family's Hereford cow herd. "When I first brought him in, daddy didn't want that bull on the pasture," laughs Mr. Taliaferro, "until he saw the cross-bred calves. They turned out pretty good. We both liked what we saw."

Today, the family keeps 200 head of registered Santa Gertrudis and 150 commercial head. The Taliaferro's successful showing reputation has resulted in invitations to several distinguished Santa Gertrudis sales. Mr. Taliaferro sold one cow for $24,000 and a bull for $8,000 at last year's Western Heritage Sale, the premiere show for Santa Gertrudis breeders.

"Our reputation is going to be built on Chris and Sheri's showing record," he says. "That's where we've gotten most of our response." The family shows cattle at ten shows per year.

Chris serves as a director for the Santa Gertrudis Youth Association, an off-shoot of SGBI (Santa Gertrudis Breeders International). He hopes to be an auctioneer someday. "One of my friends is an auctioneer. We went to one of his sales and I just picked it up from him," he says. But in the meantime, he's having too good a time with the cattle, FFA and managing the ranch responsibilities when needed.

When Mr. Taliaferro *is* called away, it's often to transport students to an activity. The 18-year-veteran ag teacher believes "education is more than just going to class. It's learning a little bit more about life." With that in mind, the instructor tries to take as many students as possible to exhibits, seminars or conventions around the state without eating into class time. Fortunately the vo-ag program is supported by a school administration which believes the same philosophy. A fellow ag teacher, David Riggs (a former Scurry-Rosser FFA member) plays a key role in this balancing act.

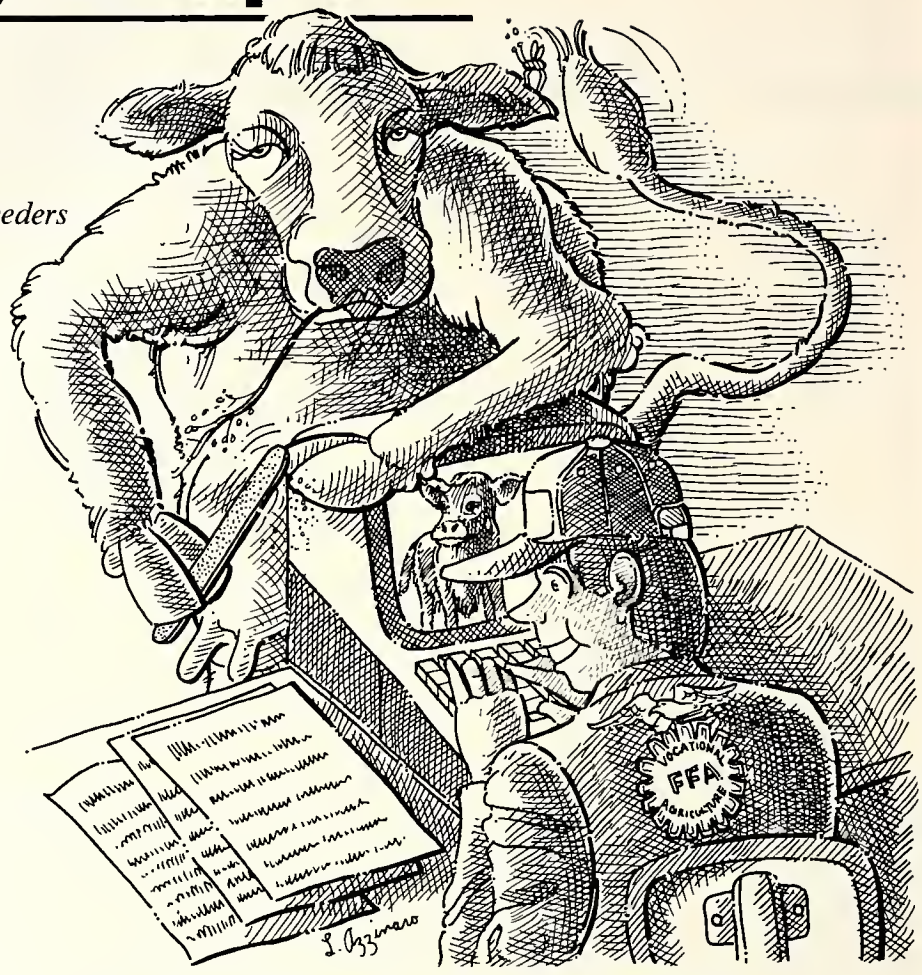
"Teaching is a job, but it's also my hobby and my pastime," says Mr. Taliaferro. "I don't go hunting or fishing. My time's usually spent running to a livestock show or taking a student to pick up a calf. I love it."

That attitude—shared by both father and son—is perhaps the most telling of all "secrets" behind the duo's success. Whether it's in the classroom, in the showring or at home, each routine task is yet another reminder of a shared common belief in FFA, vo-ag, responsibility—and team effort. It's a lesson we all could learn from. •••

Left, Chris takes care of feeding the herd of Santa Gertrudis cattle when his dad is away. Above, Wylie, left, and Chris. "When I'm gone I never worry about anything," says Wylie.

Calving By Computer

It looks like computers, along with everything else they can do, may also be able to offer a time capsule of valuable experience—a boon to those aspiring cattle breeders too young to have accumulated much of the magic ingredient for themselves.



By Sally Duncan

Ask any successful farmer what the most valuable tool for success has been and he or she will probably answer, "experience."

That's all very well if you have several years of it behind you. But for high school students seeking a career in agriculture, long years of experience can't just be conjured up.

One solution to this problem for future cattle breeders has been developed by Dean Frischknecht, Oregon State University Extension Animal Science Specialist. He's found a way to cram ten years of breeding experience into less than three months.

It's called the Computer Cow Game.

Frischknecht conducts the cattle breeding short course by correspondence, hoping to help both present and future cattle producers understand beef cattle improvement through breeding and record keeping programs. The game is open to individual participants, and to high school and college teams.

The computer produces five generations of simulated cattle in less than three months. About 100 herds of simulated cattle are distributed to participants, with three to five completely different herds of 50 cows and 5 bulls going to each school. Instructors assign several students to each cow herd.

The "cattle breeders" maintain their herd at 50 females by culling poor producing cows and replacing them with the best of the heifers. One to five of the bulls produced within the herd are used as sires.

The goal is to increase yearling weight. The printout summary of information provided by the computer includes 205-day weaning weight, feedlot average daily gain for 160 days and yearling weight at 365 days. A new calf crop is available for scrutiny about every two or three weeks; participants have several days to study the eligible breeders before before making selections and matings for the next crop and returning their data to the computer for processing.

Trina Nunez, FFA member from Eagle Point High School in southern Oregon, was on the winning high school team for 1982.

"I certainly learned a lot about how to upgrade cows and bulls," she says, "even though it was frustrating not being able to see the animals we were dealing with."

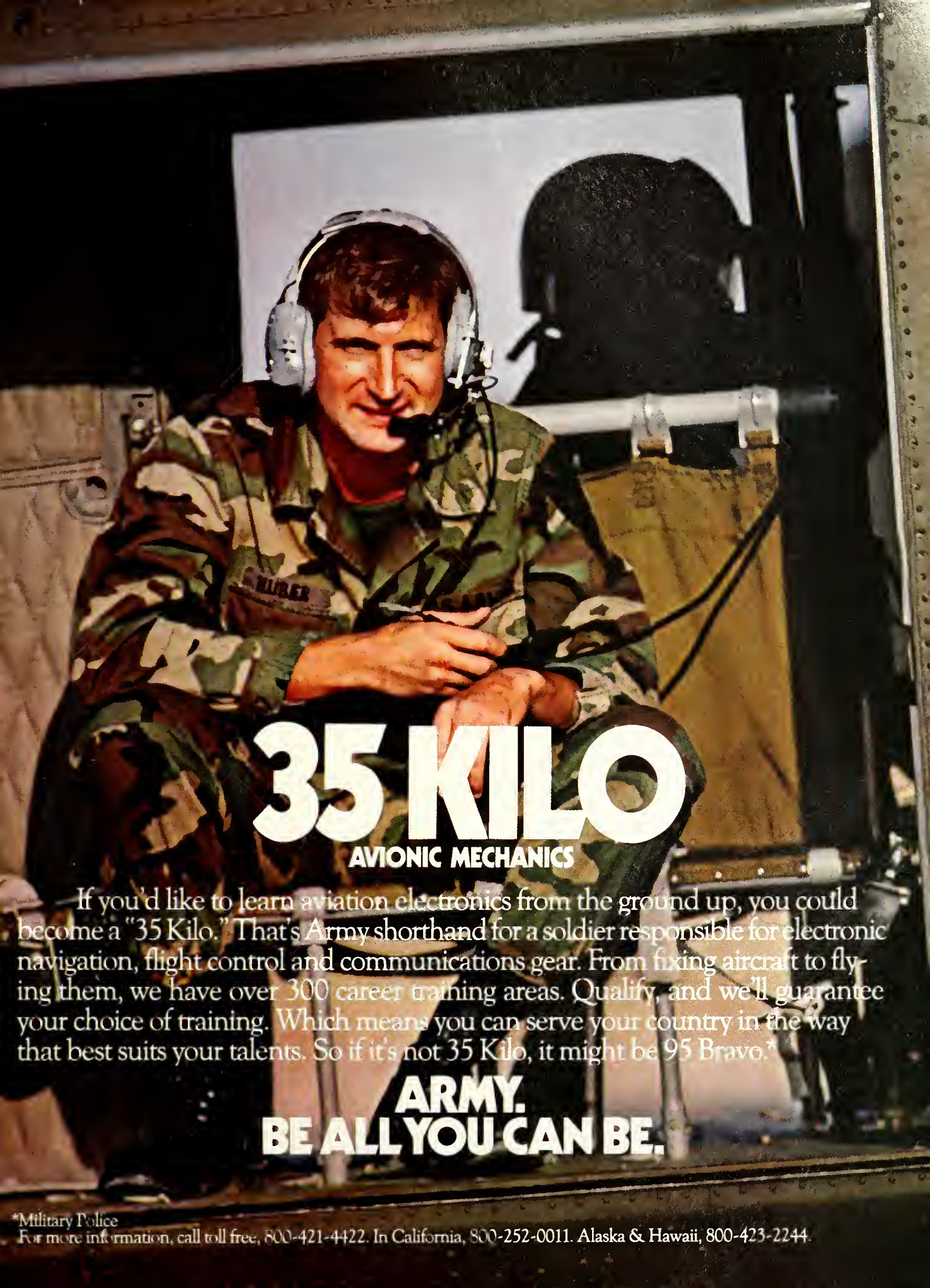
Trina says the team would often take an hour of class to discuss heritability, breeding values and other genetic terms before making management decisions from the computer printout.

Mr. Frischknecht feels the differences among beef cattle, in terms of economic value, are largely inherited.

"If a cattle producer systematically measures the differences, records the measurements and uses the records for selection, he or she will be able to improve the herd and breed genetically," he explains.

Trina, who is majoring in agriculture at Linn Benton Community College in Albany, Oregon, believes the short course is more than just a game. She feels computerization is the future direction of agriculture. "Although not many farmers are using computers yet because of the high initial cost," she says, "the increased efficiency of their herd improvement program will eventually make computer use a good economic investment."

Trina is not far off. Today, each of the major breed associations, along with Performance Registry International, already offer to cattle producers a central data processing service which computerizes their records and rates sires and dams within each herd according to the calves produced. It looks like computers, along with everything else they can do, may just be able to offer a time capsule of valuable experience—a boon to those aspiring cattle breeders too young to have accumulated much of the magic ingredient for themselves. •••



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"There's a lot of hard work and late hours—many routine tasks that differed from the glamorous picture many have of the profession."

Veterinary Medicine

By Shirley Jones

To be a vet, I used to think, you just *had* to have a shiny truck with lots of medicine compartments and a really sturdy washing machine to take care of all those coveralls. As it turns out, the truck and coveralls may be important, but they take a back seat to the real requirements of practicing veterinary medicine.

Vet Med is the science of diagnosing and treating diseases of animals says Dr. Kenneth Niemeyer of the University of Missouri School of Veterinary Medicine. "It's a complex area to talk about because there are so many different ways a degree can be used," he says. However, the career field can generally be broken into two areas: large animal practice and small animal practice.

Private practice on large animals means working with cattle, horses, swine, sheep and other agricultural animals. "A vet plays a crucial role here because so much of the practice is preventative medicine—testing, vaccinating," says Dr. Niemeyer. Small animal practice is growing rapidly, he says, "because of emphasis on using pets as companion animals for older people and for handicapped persons. While economics plays an important role in large animal practice, meaning business is brisk when livestock prices are high, small animals tend to be "members of the family," and are taken care of no matter what.

Other opportunities for someone with a vet med degree include researchers in laboratory animal medicine, supervision of federal meat inspection and in the pharmaceutical and feed industries. Although it's a competitive field, Dr. Niemeyer says, "I believe there will always be a need for good people."

What makes a good vet? Leo Anderson, a former national FFA officer and veterinarian in Mitchell, Nebraska, says a good vet has people skills. By that, Leo says, "I mean the ability to talk with clients, to be able to really converse." Somewhat hampered by the silence of his "patients," Mr. Anderson says compassion and perception is the key. Dr. Niemeyer agrees: "Will Rogers once said, 'Animals can't tell you where they hurt, you just have to know.'"

The veterinary business takes hard work. Where Leo practices, cattle production is prominent. Much of his "emergency work" takes place during calving season. "If one works with small animals and didn't maintain an emergency service, they might be able to keep eight-to-five hours," he says.

Competition Fierce

Important to any prospective vet are the educational requirements—some say the most challenging, difficult-to-achieve of any career field in agriculture. Academic requirements are high, partially due to a large supply of eager vet students willing to put time and energy into achieving "A" rankings in the lab and classroom. The competition can be fierce.

Leo's experience at Colorado State University reflects a fairly common seven or eight years to obtain an undergraduate degree in pre-veterinary courses (with a heavy emphasis on mathematics, biology and chemistry) and his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree. Having been awarded the degree, vets must be licensed by the state in which they wish to practice.

But don't be disillusioned. Acceptance into a veterinary program is not easy. To begin with, only 27 colleges of veterinary medicine exist in the United States. An application and interviews are required in many schools, with heavy emphasis placed on academic performance (grades) and personal characteristics such as motivation, background, communication ability and extracurricular activities. Leo credits the FFA for the skills that helped him through the process.

"FFA helped me in filling out applications," he says. The chance to be in front of people in FFA was helpful as well, he says, referring to the vet school entrance interview. "One interviewer asked me to tell him about myself and he kept quiet for a half-hour," he says. "It was a tough situation. FFA helped."

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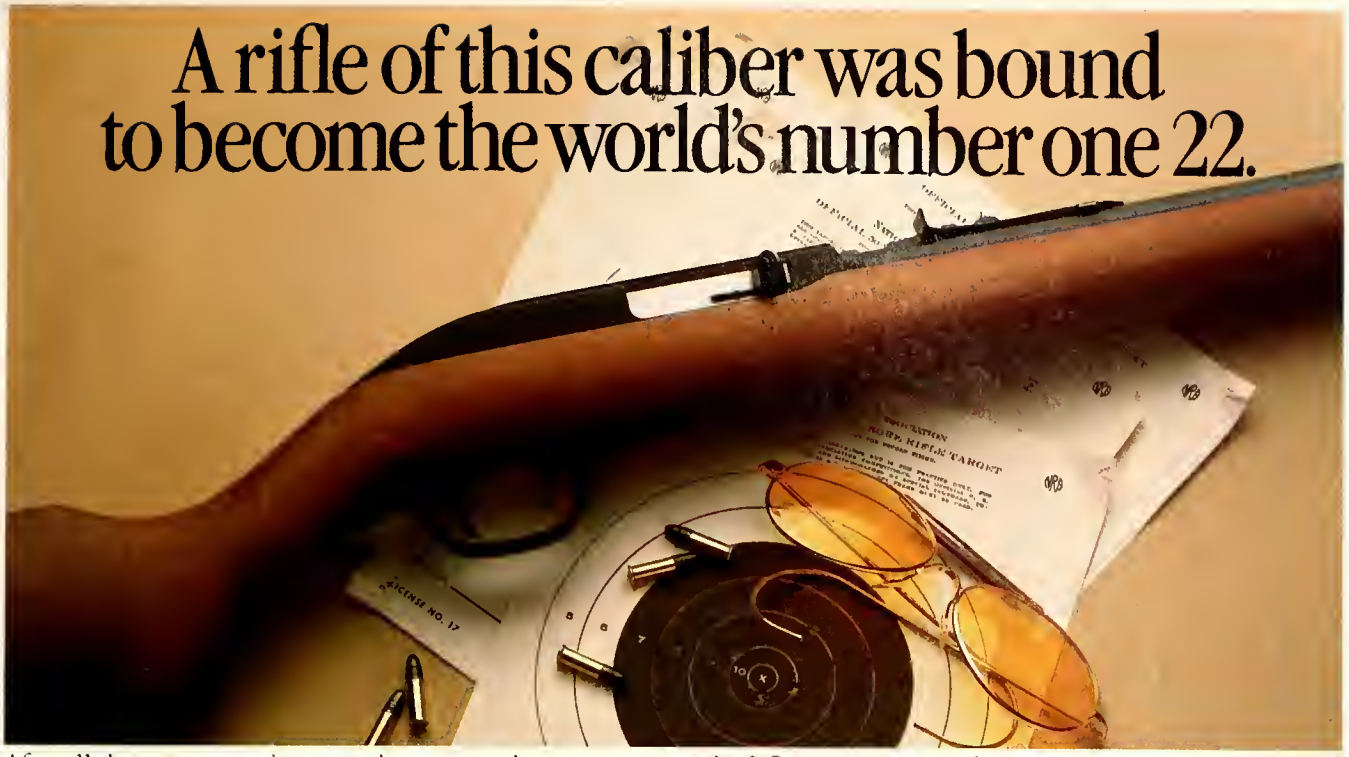

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If Leo has one regret it is that he did not work for a veterinarian before he started school. "I feel like I didn't have a realistic picture of being a vet," he says. "There's a lot of hard work and late hours—many routine tasks that differed from the glamorous picture many have of the profession."

Working with a practicing vet is especially important, says Dr. Niemeyer, if a student does not have a farm background. "Coming from a farm is not essential," he says, "but working with a vet prevents a student from forming false perceptions."

The make-up of vet classes has gradually changed over the past 20 years to include almost half women. Dr. Niemeyer says that after World War II, most vets were male because of the need for large animal handling. With the restraining drugs available today, vets do not have to be as strong physically, which has opened the door to females.

"While lots of women go into small animal practice, there are women right now who are wrestling with pigs and cows out on farms," says Tim Donovan of the American Veterinary Medical Association. "A survey of first-year vet students in 1982-83 shows 50.3 percent were male and 49.7 percent female."

Salaries for veterinarians are among the highest in agriculture, commanding an average $34,561 for vets not in private practice to an average $37,030 for those in private practice. However, a typical beginning salary is much lower, as in any career. •••

Animal Technology Careers Offer Alternative to Vet School

If working with animals has always appealed to you, but a full-fledged degree program in veterinary medicine does not, there's a relatively new career field that may. It's called "Animal Technology," and it's a practical alternative for many people.

Animal Technologists go to school for two years and assist veterinarians in a variety of ways. In a large animal practice, they communicate with animal owners, dress wounds, collect specimens and perform some routine laboratory procedures. They prepare patients and equipment for surgery and in general, can do anything that does not involve diagnosis, prescription, surgery or any act forbidden by the state in which the technician is employed.

The field opened up, says Tim Donovan, because "there was a need for qualified personnel who could understand animals and science" well enough to assist vets.

Fifty-seven schools in the United States offer accredited programs in Animal Technology. To find out their locations, you can request a listing from the American Veterinary Medical Association by sending a self-addressed, stamped business-size envelope to AVMA, 930 North Meacham, Schaumburg, Illinois 60196. Also available is the 22-page booklet "Today's Veterinarian" and the brochure "Your Career in Animal Technology." •••

Shirley Jones is a former FFA State Officer, WCP counselor and National FFA information intern. She currently works as Director of Communications for Agri Business Associates in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Above, a White House visit with President Reagan was the highlight of an action-packed week for state FFA leaders and the six national officers (pictured with Mr. Reagan) during the 1983 State Presidents' Conference in Washington, D.C. in July.

A Week Of Opportunity

"The Future Farmers of America does more than give a good start to some fine young people. By cultivating leadership skills and patriotism, it ensures the strength and vitality of our country."
—President Ronald Reagan

Not everyone is fortunate enough to have an audience with the President of the United States.

But by White House standards, state FFA officers meeting in Washington, D.C. this summer were more than important enough to merit a Rose Garden reception—with complimentary iced tea, no less—and a meeting with President Reagan.

Over 200 state and national FFA officers and adult supervisors were on hand at the White House, which was one of several highlights of a week of opportunity for state FFA leaders at the 16th annual State Presidents' Conference, sponsored by General Motors Corporation.

In his speech, President Reagan impressed FFA members with his knowledge of agrieulture. "This generation of American farmers has astounded the world with its productivity. Farm output since 1950 has jumped 89 percent, with agricultural productivity rising more than four times faster than industrial productivity per hour worked," he said. "Agricultural productivity has permitted us to develop human values and to put those values into practice. Our abundanee is a product of the hard work of our farmers, the skill and technological know-how that we put into agriculture and, most important, the freedom which we're so proud of here in America."

.The President continued, "I know that the Future Farmers of America is doing its part to build character and to keep our country in the forefront of the production of food and fiber. I'd like to congratulate you for FFA's theme this year, which I understand is 'Keeping America on the Grow.' I know things have been rough and still are for many farmers. But I hope when you go back to your homes, you will tell your families and your friends . . . that American farmers are not going to be left out of the good times that lie ahead."

The meeting brought together officers from all 50 states and Puerto Rico to motivate, inform and update state leaders on current national FFA programs, activities and agricultural issues which affect the entire FFA membership. Several workshops, round-table discussions and "rap sessions" with national FFA leaders were held specifically for these purposes.

At The National FFA Center, the group was given a premiere showing of the new FFA audio-visual theme show, "Keeping America On The Grow" and a preview of the first-ever Public Service Announcements supporting vocational agriculture, featuring actor Eddie Albert (see page 20 this issue).

The state leaders also took time to fill out a survey on agricultural attitudes and other opinions sponsored by *The National FUTURE FARMER* maga-

(Continued on Page 46)

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Opportunity

(Continued from Page 44)

zine. Some results of that survey are included with this story.

But the officers took time to cultivate a strong sense of patriotism and citizenship during their stay in the nation's capital. Through visits to Mount Vernon, George Washington's home, Arlington National Cemetery, well-known national monuments and visits with congressmen on Capitol Hill, FFA members were given a better appreciation for their country.

A congressional luncheon attended by U.S. Senate and House leaders featured keynote speeches from Rep. Wes Watkins, of Oklahoma, a former state FFA officer, and National FFA Officer Bryan Stamps. Bryan noted that the success of individuals who have taken part in vocational agriculture can be attributed to three concepts: vocational education, a belief in American agriculture, and responsibility. He also added, "Most importantly because it is vital to the success of any other belief, we are committed to being the best we can be. We know it is our responsibility as Future Farmers of America to be that unshadowed light for our own lives, our industry and our country."

Earlier in the week the group was addressed by Secretary of Agriculture John Block at USDA, who held an FFA "press conference" in an attempt to answer key questions on agricultural problems and policy from state leaders. Mr. Block is also a former FFA state officer from Illinois. •••

State Leaders Answer Opinion Poll

The following are highlight results from an opinion poll given to state FFA officers during the 1983 State Presidents' Conference held in Washington, D.C. this summer.

How would you rank the following topics in importance to FFA members today?

TOPICS	RANK
Farm management	1.
Ag careers	2.
Farmland preservation	3.
Farm public image	4.
Government programs/PIK	5.
World trade/exports	6.
Ag research	7.
Farm organizations	8.
Soil/water conservation	9.

What do you see as the most important trends in agriculture/agribusiness throughout the next 25 years?

Computer/management tools	1.
New technology	2.
Money management	3.
Futures markets	4.
Diversify/intensify farms & ranches	5.
Marketing	6.
Soil/water conservation	7.
Government programs	8.
Higher/lower ag exports	9.
Farm organizations	10.
Labor management	11.
Reduced tillage	12.
Animal welfare	13.

Others mentioned: politics, farm finance, land management

Rank the toughest problems facing farmers and agribusinessmen today:

Pressure to develop farmland for housing	1.
Low commodity prices	2.
Interest rates	3.
High cost to produce	4.
Lack of business skills	5.
Lack of modern marketing skills	6.
Political intervention (i.e. embargoes)	7.
Financial mismanagement	8.
Anti-farm attitude of urban community	9.
Inadequate soil/water conservation	10.
Excessive government regulations	11.
Inadequate yields	12.
Export raw goods, not finished goods	13.
Environmental opposition	14.

Others mentioned: difficulty in starting farming, failure of large farms to cooperate, inability to meet loan payments

What is the greatest problem facing this nation today?

(The following had multiple responses:)

Economic conditions	10
Unemployment	7
Threat of war	6
Apathy, lack of interest	6
Inflation	5
Low morality	5
Recession	3
Downfall of education	3
Lack of patriotism	3
Lack of faith in leaders	2

What is the greatest problem facing the world today?

(The following had multiple responses:)

Lack of peace	16
Hunger	10
Communism	4
Lack of communication	3
Nuclear arms race	3
Poor distribution of food	3
Economy	3
Lack of cooperation	2
Over-population	2

List three individuals you admire most in this country.

(The following had multiple responses:)

Ronald Reagan	31
John Block	14
Norman Vincent Peale	12
Parents	10
Jimmy Carter	5
Jan Eberly	4
Father	4
Mother	4
Zig Ziglar	3
John F. Kennedy	2
Henry Kissinger	2
Tip O'Neil	2
Vo-ag instructor	2
Richard Nixon	2

What kind of music do you listen to?

Rock-n-roll	37%
Country rock	27%
Country western	21%
Classical	5%
Jazz	4%
Bluegrass	3%
Folk	2%
Gospel	1%

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FFA: Our financial contributions help honor outstanding members at the chapter, state, regional and national levels.

4-H: Our contributions help honor outstanding members at county, state and national levels.

Universities: We sponsor scholarships at agricultural colleges of 29 Land-Grant universities and contribute the same total at each.

The university's ag scholarship committee determines the number, individual dollar amounts and recipients of MoorMan Scholarships.

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Iowa State University, Ames
Kansas State University, Manhattan
University of Kentucky, Lexington
Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO
Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge
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Mississippi State University, Starkville
University of Missouri, Columbia
Montana State University, Bozeman
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
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Ohio State University, Columbus
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New Stars

(Continued from Page 32)

Following in the family tradition, Glenn Wenger, of Myerstown, Pennsylvania, has been selected Eastern Region Star Agribusinessman. Glenn's two older brothers have also captured the regional star title.

Glenn, 20, started his SOE program with the family-owned "Wenger's Farm Machinery, Inc." in his pre-teen years by attending farm sales every weekend with his father and older brothers. He soon gained experience in appraising and purchasing farm equipment.

As a member of Eastern Lebanon County FFA Chapter, Glenn's involvement in the family business grew. He currently serves as vice-president of the family machinery company; vice-president of J.K. and B., a real-estate corporation, and president of Wenger Farms, an operation utilizing 300 acres of farmland, a 70-cow dairy herd and 60 replacement heifers.

Glenn has also served as a state officer in the Pennsylvania FFA Association, and currently serves as president of the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni.

Management and initiative have helped R. Lyndon Taylor of Thomas, Oklahoma, to become Western Region Star Agribusinessman. Twenty-one-year-old Lyndon began his SOE program as a harvest laborer in "Taylor Harvesting," a family-operated custom harvesting business. Today, Lyndon helps manage the company, has bought into the business and has become a working partner with his older brother and father. Lyndon makes decisions primarily as field boss for the harvesting business, and has implemented a daily preventive maintenance program to keep all Taylor equipment in condition.

Another family business, "Taylor Agri Service," involves building, designing and selling custom machinery, and Lyndon helps design and build equipment when needed. The business supplies parts, sells equipment and assists customers with custom welding and repair work. In addition to both services, Lyndon and his brother operate their own feed business, trucking and growing cattle feed for sale.

Lyndon, a lifetime member of the FFA Alumni Association, currently attends Oklahoma State University where he is majoring in agricultural education. •••

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Agriculture's Cry

Strap on your space helmets, future farmers; it looks like Buck Rogers is replacing Farmer Brown in tomorrow's agriculture.

THE space age has truly arrived at America's farms.

And it's not just the space age, either. Don't forget the computer age, the genetic age and a host of other scientific whirlygizzmos that seem to defy logic.

Those who whine that "there's nothing left to invent" haven't heard about the square tomatoes, the computer that grades carcasses, the "compu-robots," or the satellite up above the earth that is, right now, quietly skimming its laser light over a cornfield to detect potential nutrient deficiencies in the plants. (For more on the laser, see page 10 of this issue.)

Granted, this is heady stuff. And what is so incredible about some of this technology is that *it's happening today.*

That's good news for future farmers, because these new technologies represent the latest step in a constantly moving wheel of advancements in U.S. agriculture, advancements which inevitably will make farming more profitable, more efficient and, possibly, more fun.

The Almighty Computer

The microcomputer can be found at the center of most "futuristic" farm technology. For example, electronic identification for cattle is now on the market. A tiny computer chip, no more than a sixth of an inch long and about the diameter of a pencil lead, is implanted in the animal's muscle. A "transponder" interprets a radio signal from the chip electronically, and a data processing system automatically records, processes, stores or retrieves the transmitted information. Instantly. Say goodbye to the branding iron.

But identification is just one benefit to a new electronic-computer system now marketed by the DeLaval Agricultural Division of Alfa Laval, Inc. According to Carl Gerhardt, vice president and general manager, the company markets automated dairy management systems; the goal is to create a system which "essentially works entirely through a computer," says Mr. Gerhardt.

So far the company has marketed a system which utilizes a transponder strapped around a cow's neck that is activated when the animal puts her head through a feed manger. A computer, receiving a signal from an antenna, is programmed to feed the cow according to a pre-set ration.

This year the company is introducing a system which actually records the cow's milk production while the cow is being milked. The information is fed into a computer which, in turn, feeds the cow according to her milk production that day.

And then there's the computer and videocamera operation that someday soon will be grading meat carcasses. This technique, now being perfected by USDA scientists and engineers at Kansas State University, uses a TV camera to monitor carcasses; what the camera sees is then analyzed by a computer that converts the image to numerical numbers for fat, lean and marbled portions of beef. So far, the technique has been estimated to be 93.5 percent accurate.

Irrigation systems will soon see vast improvements by using computers to maximize water usage, while requiring less hand labor. One computer-controlled lateral-move experimental system is being used today that is equipped with lasers to keep it perfectly aligned as it moves. Its computer program includes soil and weather information that takes into account solar radiation, air temperature and humidity, wind speeds, soil moisture and evaporation and plant transpiration. As soil and water sensors indicate the need for water, the computer turns the system on until the crop's water needs are satisfied.

But computers may see their most dramatic use in electronic marketing and mailing, says Warren Clark, marketing products manager of AgriData

DELANO: "Computer robots will do much of our present farmwork. Memory units will allow farm machinery to "learn" jobs from human operators and later, when unattended, to perform as directed without human guidance."

tal Ball

By Michael Wilson

Resources, Inc. AgriData operates a national computer network for farmers called "AgriStar," offering farmers instant information on markets, weather and other items. "What if you were able to call up your microcomputer from your tractor cab?" asks Mr. Clark. "Someday, it may be possible for FFA members to take notes in the classroom on their own personal computer, and after class stick it in a briefcase. It all sounds ten years off, but some of it is happening now."

Ag mechanics may also be in for some fantastic changes over the next few years. Robert Delano, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, says, "It is reasonable to assume that tomorrow, 'compu-bots'—computer robots—will do much of our present farmwork. Memory units will allow farm machinery to "learn" jobs from human operators and later, when unattended, to perform as directed without human guidance." Other experts predict computer controlled tractors, machinery that diagnoses its own mechanical problems and total environment controlled farming by the year 2000.

No-till farming, which ten years ago was still a novelty, is now touted as *the* wave of the future. An era of "plowless farming" will be in full swing on virtually all U.S. cropland in 17 years, says USDA research scientists.

At one time, proper farm machinery for reduced tillage seemed to be holding back the new methods. Now, large and incredibly efficient tractors are being marketed specifically for use with no-till planters and tillage equipment. 24-row grain planters and special plows guided by lasers, similar to laser leveling operations are also in existence today.

Self-sufficient livestock farms is another area which fascinates researchers. Scientists at Cornell University, for example, have constructed a large-scale methane production system on a New York dairy farm. The methane digester is nearly as large as a tennis court, measuring 72 feet long, 21 feet wide and 8 feet deep. It's designed to process the tons of animal wastes from as many as 240 full grown cows each day, and will yield enough energy to run a generator around the clock—resulting in more electrical power than the farm could possibly use.

One innovative professor has taken this self-sufficient plan a step further. Dr. Lowell Wilson, animal science professor at Penn State University, drew up a futuristic plan to produce meat in the year 2020. He describes a five-story beef production complex that would operate

(Continued on next page)

Out-Of-This-World Farming

By Mark Rowh

PICTURE it. An eager farmer stoops to inspect a row of soybeans, and exhales a sharp breath of satisfaction. Soon it will be time for harvest. Straightening up, he rubs his back and gazes skyward, a ritual shared by farmers over the centuries. This sky, however, looks vastly different. Thousands of unwinking stars fill the black expanse, their beauty outstripped only by the bright blue sphere hanging in their midst like a precious gem: planet Earth.

Science fiction? Perhaps. But a century from now scenes like this are expected to be part of everyday existence. By then scientists feel men will have gained a firm foothold in space. Orbiting space stations, lunar cities and perhaps even colonies on Mars or the moons of Jupiter will have become reality. Thousands of people will be living in these space habitats, and they will have to be fed. With Earth a distant oasis, extraterrestrial farms will be a necessary part of each space station. And it's a good bet that future farmers of today—or perhaps your sons and daughters—will help operate those space farms.

The idea of space farming has fascinated futuristic thinkers for years. Over 30 years ago noted writer Arthur C. Clarke predicted development of domed moon colonies which will make use of soil-free hydroponic farming methods. These lunar farms would be located in pressurized greenhouses. Liquid nutrients and the bright sunlight of the moon's two-week-long days would bring rich and rapidly grown crops.

Similar farms might be expected on Mars, where self-sufficiency will be vital, considering the months-long passage time between the planets. Protective domes should also be the rule in the rarified Martian atmosphere, although some hardy crops may be cultivated in the open. Rather than hydroponics, the Martian soil should prove a sufficient growing medium with the help of water and powerful fertilizers.

Other space farms might be located in sprawling man-made satellites, where an Earth-like environment would duplicate huge growing areas. Another interesting possibility is the use of hollow asteroids, where warm temperatures and constant artificial lighting would be maintained.

Favorite crops, along with soybeans, might include high-protein grains such as wheat and rice, along with numerous vegetables. And given expected advances in genetic engineering, entirely new crops designed to thrive in extra-terrestrial environments will be likely.

While their surroundings may be unlike those of previous generations, space farmers in these future colonies will be much like those of today. On their shoulders will rest the same awesome responsibility which today's farmers face: the well-being and survival of the populations they serve. The role these space farmers of the future play will be an integral part of one of mankind's greatest dreams—expansion to other worlds. •••

Crystal Ball

(Continued from Page 51)

something like this:

The fifth floor is responsible for maintaining 25 highly-selected, "cloned" cows and six bulls, offering nine different genetic combinations of offspring through artificial insemination and embryo transfer methods. Semen and embryos from this special herd are not only used within the complex but also marketed through frozen, fertilized embryos and nonfertilized embryos. The herd produces 40 "superovulated," fertilized eggs, each 21 days from each of the 25 cows. This results in 17,000 fertilized eggs, two of which are placed in each recipient commercial female (fourth floor.) Success rate for the transplant process will be, he predicts, 95 percent.

The fourth floor is the cow/calf unit, where most of the commercial cows are kept, each receiving two fertilized male embryos.

The third floor is called the "growing unit." Cattle on this floor put on about 400 pounds before transfer to the second floor. All animal wastes from this floor are processed through a chemical-heat sterilizer and used as a part of the ration for the cattle fed above, which reduces the amount of feed needed by approximately 35 percent, plus reducing waste disposal problems.

The second floor is the finishing unit. Cattle are brought here weighing 1,100 pounds and fed to an average slaughter-weight of 1,600-1,800 pounds by 12 months. Most cattle in this unit, which will have an annual capacity of 15,000 head, are full brothers. Sexing of semen has been so successful and accurate that there are essentially no females produced, except those from elite lines needed for maintenance in the highly-productive seed herd. None of the cattle are castrated.

The first floor is the slaughtering and processing unit, where animals are injected with a natural enzyme mixture, which acts as a tenderizing process, just prior to slaughter. Then the carcasses receive electrical stimulation and are then frozen conventionally, irradiated (by radiation) or freeze-dried. "These methods may be so advanced that meat sold this way will taste even better than fresh meat does today," says Dr. Wilson.

All waste water from the unit is sprayed directly onto nearby highly productive fields and into a special hydroponic unit, where essentially all nutrients are recycled through plants. Since the beef unit is located near highly-populated urban centers, human waste and other forms of municipal garbage is combined with animal waste to create methane gas in the unit's "anerobic digester-Methane Generator," which provides all the heat needed for processing foods, light and other power. Excess energy produced by the methane is used by these nearby housing developments.

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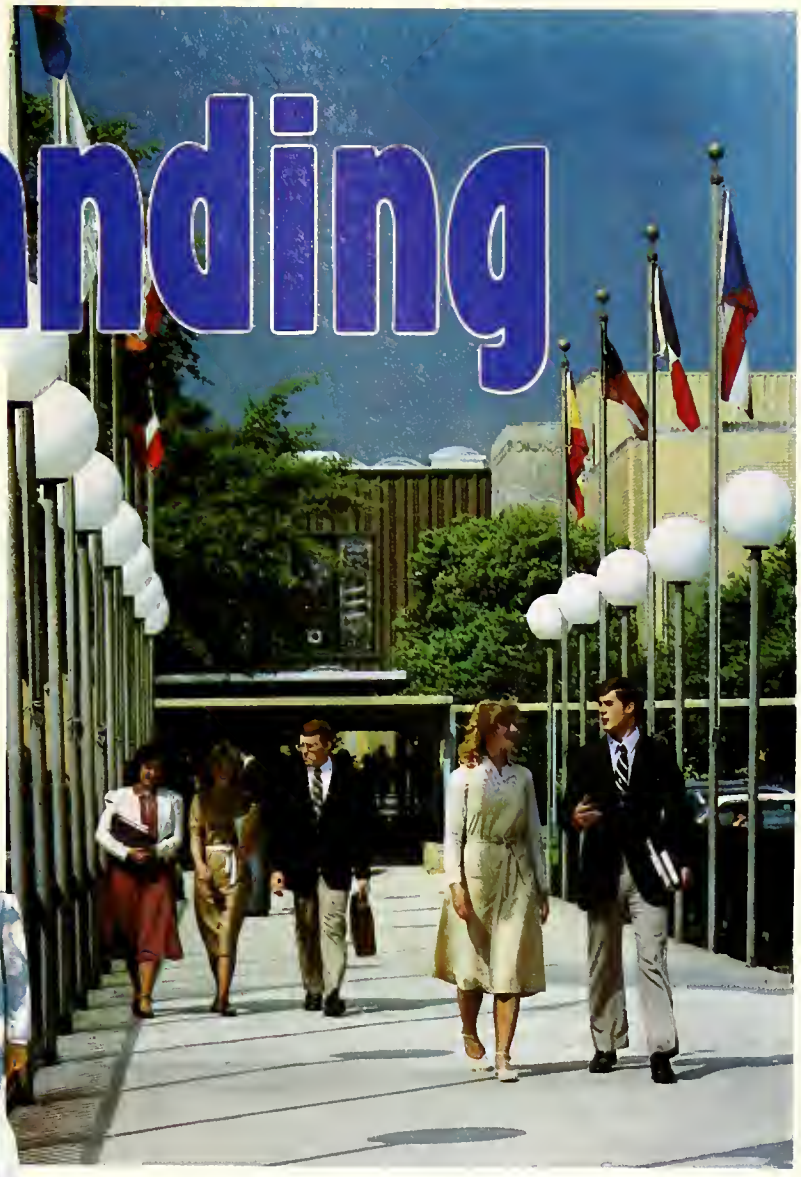

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News, Notes, and Nonsense from Everywhere

Chapter Scoop

by Jack Pitzer

A popular new idea for the *Big Timber,* MT, Chapter was an old-fashioned hoedown. Musicians from the area strummed and sang while paying customers danced.

N-N-N

As part of their handouts at the county fair exhibit, the *Middlesex County,* NJ, Chapter will pass out FFA balloons. (You can buy them from the Supply Service.)

N-N-N

The horticulture classes at *Oshkosh West,* WI, planted and sold 60,000 bedding plants this spring. The greenhouse is empty now and is being prepared for planting poinsettias.

N-N-N

In the first FFA Alumni vs. active FFA members softball game, the *Fairview,* MT, Chapter came out on the losing end and had to pay for the refreshments.

N-N-N

Didn't get much response about chapter test plots since last issue. Know that lack of moisture was a problem. *DeWitt Central,* IA, sprayed their beans with Basogran and Fusilade in June and were well satisfied with the weed kill.

N-N-N

Members of the *Lowell,* MI, Chapter look forward to the annual inner-tubing trip on a nearby creek during the summer.

N-N-N

Menu for the *Deary,* ID, parent-member banquet was pancakes, eggs and sausage.

N-N-N

In *Selah,* WA, they call their parent-member night a dessert. They do all the usual things like demonstrate "parly pro" or give public speaking talks, award proficiency awards and install officers.

N-N-N

Guess you should expect their news item to be all about snow and cold. *LeSueur,* MN, had candidates for snow week king and queen. Plus had members ride in the sleigh days parade. It gets cold in MN.

N-N-N

When *Southeast Consolidated FFA* in Stella, NE, baled the bromegrass hay on their school's property, it was not only a good money maker, it was a great chance to get together with chapter friends over the summer months.

The chapter banquet of *Goddard FFA* in Roswell, NM, was taped by KBIM television and presented on the morning farm and ranch show.

N-N-N

When the county cattlemen's association held their steer feeding contest, the *Akron,* CO, FFA made 56 plaques consisting of a picture of the steer enclosed in a horseshoe frame for presentation to each buyer.

N-N-N

Advisor **McBride** and Reporter **Jodi Jones** spoke to the local Rotary about the FFA Creed, motto and emblem and represented the *St. Marys,* OH, Chapter.

N-N-N

The senior ag trip for members of *Wallowa,* OR, took them into Canada during their six-day trip. They observed different aspects of agriculture.

N-N-N

The main course at the *Pierre-Oahe,* SD, Chapter banquet was roast buffalo from the 50,000-acre Houck Buffalo Ranch nearby. The buffalo tasted very good and much like beef according to Advisor **Murphy.**

N-N-N

During National Wildlife Week, the county game protectors spent a day with *Evergreen,* OH, FFA members talking about saving animals and resources.

N-N-N

The Christmas gifts from the *Bellevue,* OH, FFA to the faculty promoted agriculture as well as expressed appreciation. They gave key chains in the shape of pigs—made from wood, painted and even with a curly tail.

N-N-N

Morgan County, KY, members were interviewed on a local TV station about their countywide lamb project and Heifer Project.

N-N-N

Grant Beadles is the new reporter for the *Thomas,* OK, FFA.

N-N-N

In *Assumption,* LA, the FFA sponsored a tournament wth baseball, basketball, tennis and volleyball.

N-N-N

Theme of the *Central Linn,* OR, float in the July 4th parade was "Learning to..." and they displayed trophies and banners won by the chapter.

Coronado FFA of El Paso, TX, organized a successful blood drive and collected a commendable 133 pints for the local community.

N-N-N

Perryville, MO, Chapter catches chickens for local poultryman who annually raises and sells 90,000 started pullets. The chapter earns $2,500 for their work.

N-N-N

Columbus Grove, OH, tops off their banquet by giving away a lot of door prizes donated by local merchants like hats, popcorn popper, belt buckles, grain thermometer, hog feeder, gift certificate and a couple of shockers.

N-N-N

Dottie Gordon and **Loretta Young,** members of the *Marysville,* OH, got their picture in the local newspaper with the chapter's newly purchased computer for use in the ag department.

N-N-N

For the fifth year in a row, the *Manheim,* PA, Chapter softball team won the Lancaster County softball tournament.

N-N-N

Columbus, TX, FFA teamed with the FHA and washed cars on two Saturdays to raise $375 for the local hospital's new cardiac monitoring equipment.

N-N-N

Then the *Kimball,* MN, Chapter is planning a hog roast with the FHA.

N-N-N

Agenda items for the *Waterford,* OH, officers meeting were the past and future tractor pull, fairground cleanup with a swimming party to follow, the national convention and a freshman party.

N-N-N

Eagle-eye **Neal Schatz** of the *Falls City,* NE, Chapter sent a clipping from the *Omaha World Herald* showing a headline "FFA Proposal Would Require Flame-Blocking Material in Jets." Although it happens a lot in newspapers—the confusion of FAA and FFA—this may be the first time for it to be turned around.

N-N-N

Keep your chapter's name in the news. Send in a short item about the nifty new ideas being used by officers or leaders in your chapter to involve members and get things done.

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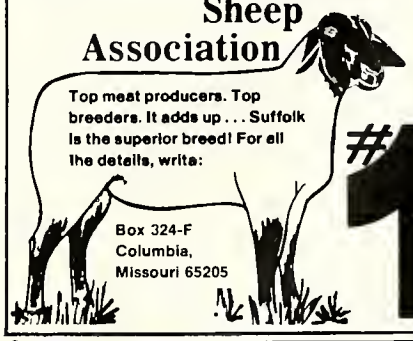

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New in Agriculture

Right, the first automatically-retracting eartag applicator is now available from Allflex Tag Company. The applicator locks the tag on with pop-rivet action, and the same action automatically retracts the pin.

Above, this new nursery waterer-medicator from Osborne Industries, Inc. lets you medicate individual nursery pens with accurate dosages and minimal waste.

Above, a new 12-page catalog from Country Manufacturing, Inc., features products for small farms, breeders and grounds maintenance—ideal for those with a small SOE program. The product line includes manure and turf spreaders, liquid spreaders, wagons and trailers, and horse management equipment. For a free copy write: Country Manufacturing, Inc., P.O. Box 104-NF, Fredericktown, Ohio 43019.

Above, a new 800-watt, ultra-quiet Powermate electric portable generator is now available from Ag-Tronic, Inc., featuring a low noise spark arrest muffler which results in smooth, reliable power without the noise normally associated with portable generators.

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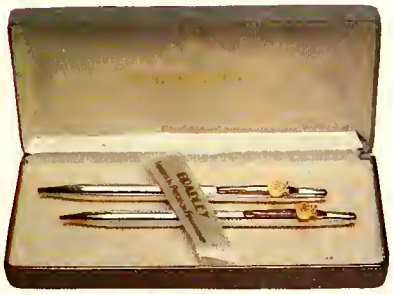

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FFA in Action

Candy for the Stars

The Elmwood, Illinois, FFA Chapter ran a concession stand selling popcorn and candy at Adventure Under the Stars, a benefit for cystic fibrosis.

The big benefit was a country western concert held at Exposition Gardens in Peoria, Illinois. During the day there was a flea market and theatrical show. Later in the evening, the concert was held. There were some top country names and a few local bands. The concert featured Atlanta, Lane Brody, the McBarker Boys and Tom Thesh. All of these people donated their time, so all the money we made was given only to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

. Our chapter helped set up tables, chairs and the stage. We even put a few of our members in the dunk tank. The concert was a good time for all of our members and we also raised money for a good cause. *(Mike Gorham, Reporter)*

Counting Sheep

One of the largest consignment sheep shows and sales in the county was organized and operated by the Carl Junction, Missouri, FFA Chapter, May 5-6. Total sales were $27,888.

Sheep from Nebraska, Illinois, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri started arriving at the Carl Junction school Thursday and Friday. Hampshire, Suffolk and Dorset sheep were put into pens that were built by the FFA students under two large tents.

Advertisements in national sheep magazines and about 1,000 sale notices were sent in January which started the ball rolling for the annual sale.

One of the Carl Junction FFA advisors, John Dillard, explained that students get involved at the very beginning until clean-up and realize how much work it takes putting a sale together.

The top selling ewe was owned by Norman Pensoneau of Bellville, Illinois, and brought $1,300. The top selling ram brought $750 and was also owned by Pensoneau. The chapter receives 10 percent of the sale plus $10-a-head entry fee. Other top sellers were the champion Suffolk ram, $450; champion Suffolk ewe, $750; and champion Dorset ewe, $325.

The Carl Junction FFA Alumni also became involved with the sale by helping out with various jobs, such as mountains

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This Home & Office Style Cover Scene is also the main illustration on Poster and Desk Style Calendars. The Wall Style which has space for a chapter's own picture and space for up to 12 advertisers is also available. If you want information about the Wall Style, check the box on the coupon at left.

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of bookwork, a concession stand in which many things including lamb burgers were sold, setting up livestock tents and loading sheep after the sale was over.

The sale gives good experience to vocational agriculture students in almost every area of livestock production from raising to showing to marketing and all the steps involved in putting together a show and sale. *(LeAnn Brown, Reporter)*

This Is For the Birds

In early March, the Willard, Ohio, Chapter selected White Rock-Cornish cross chicks and started feeding them. The chicks were fed a starter feed and later switched to a commercial broiler ration at three weeks of age.

The next step in the production cycle was to take the live mature birds at about eight weeks of age and prepare them for the consumer. Many thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Funk of Willard for demonstrating the butchering process. Each FFA member was to butcher at least one bird, but some "chickened" out.

The final stage and the most tasteful part was taking the frozen birds, thawing them, halving them, barbecuing them and serving them to the members, parents and friends of the FFA. *(David Featheringill, Reporter)*

Ride 'em Tractor

The Utica, Ohio, FFA held a tractor rodeo for the members of the chapter. Each contestant had to hitch an implement to the tractor and drive through a course which consisted of backing the tractor and implement and maneuvering them through a pattern of stakes. Then, the implement was unhitched from the tractor by the operator. This course was timed.

Rob Overly had a time of two minutes and 30 seconds. This was the best time in the chapter and so Rob will represent Utica in the tractor rodeo at the Hartford Fair. *(Laura Rauch)*

Cow Contest Champs

A total of 1,643 FFA chapters entered the 1983 *Hoard's Dairyman* Cow Judging contest. FFA entries were received from 50 states.

First place and $100 went to Boonsboro, Maryland. The chapter advisor is Mrs. Terrie Shank, who received an honorable mention in the vo-ag instructor division of the contest. The high school won the FFA division in 1979 and 1978 and received honorable mentions in 1982 and 1981.

Second place and $75 went to Queen Anne's County FFA in Centreville, Maryland. The team which is coached by T. L. Cornett, won the contest in 1981.

The West Grant FFA Chapter from

(Continued on Page 60)

FACTS FOR ACTION

FFA Announces A New National College and Vocational/Technical School Scholarship Program

For the first time in its history the national FFA organization will offer educational scholarships to its members for their use in college or vocational/technical schools. Applicants will be FFA members in their senior year of high school or out-of-school members preparing to enroll in their first year of higher education.

The scholarships are for one year only and not renewable. Recipients will be selected by the scholarship committee from applications submitted which include a statement by the local advisor. The committee will also make selections based on the requirements stipulated by the various sponsors of the scholarships. All of the scholarships are given through the National FFA Foundation by various firms, companies or organizations, and each of the scholarships has detailed eligiblity requirements. One application form will be used for all scholarships.

If you are interested in either of the following five scholarships offered this first year, have your advisor request an application form from the Scholarship Committee, National FFA Center, Box 15160, Alexandria, Virginia 22309. The forms are due back January 1, 1984.

For 1984: Harold Davis Memorial Scholarship for $500 sponsored by A. O. Smith Harvestore Products, Inc. for an FFA member with a strong livestock background in swine, beef, dairy or any combination. Other details and specific requirements by the students are included with the application instructions. And also for 1984, four Esmark, Inc. Foundation/Swift & Company scholarships available to Illinois members planning to pursue four-year college degrees with a major in any area of agriculture.

Advisors of interested students must request the scholarship instruction sheet and application form at the above address.

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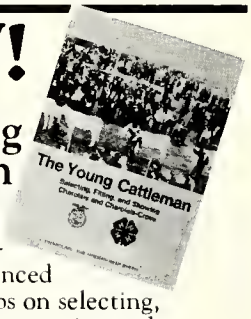

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FFA in Action

(Pick up ACTION from Page 59)

Patch Grove, Wisconsin, placed third and received $50 for the second year in a row. Dennis Mulrooney is the advisor.

Fourth place and $25 went to Delavan Darien High School in Delavan, Wisconsin. The chapter received an honorable mention in 1981 and placed second in 1975. Glen Holman, advisor, was an honorable mention in the vo-ag instructor division of this year's contest.

The judging contest is sponsored each year by *Hoard's Dairyman*, a national dairy farm magazine published in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. The 53rd annual contest attracted 111,005 contestants from all 50 states and 34 foreign countries.

The contest involves judging pictures of four cows from each of the five dairy breeds. A different breed is featured on the cover of five consecutive issues of the magazine. Nationally known dairy cattle judges make the official placings and the contestants are graded accordingly.

What Did They See Here

Farms here are smaller. The weather is stickier. The crops grown are more varied.

Those were a few of the firsthand impressions of a number of young farmers and FFA members from Oregon, Montana and Idaho who recently visited several agricultural establishments in the Marysville, Ohio, area.

The visitors were in central Ohio to attend a seminar on cooperatives at the Ohio State University sponsored by the American Institute of Cooperation.

Their visit to the Marysville area included several visits to area farms including the homes of Marysville FFA members Pat and Kelly Thornton, Jeff Rea, Kurt Guenther and Dottie Gordon. Tours of the O. M. Scott Seed plant and the Honda plants were arranged through Mr. Odell Miller, Ohio State faculty and former Marysville vo-ag instructor.

While here, the visitors also enjoyed a picnic at Scotts Park and lunch at the American Legion Hall. Their local visit was hosted by the Marysville FFA and Alumni chapters.

The visitors found the several interesting differences between farming as it's done in central Ohio and the agricultural practices of their home states.

Farms here seemed tiny to them, particularly to those from Montana who are used to farms that average 10,000 acres. The diversity of crops grown here is also different. We're used to seeing beef cattle and alfalfa every place, said one. *(Dottie Gordon, Reporter)*

From One Lisbon to Another

It seemed so impossible and far away from our small community in northern New York to travel 700 miles to Lisbon, Ohio.

The FFA in Lisbon, New York, decided to visit the FFA in Lisbon, Ohio, located about 30 miles south of Youngstown in Columbiana County. It was chosen because of its fine agriculture history and because Lisbon, Ohio, is our namesake. We felt a very special bond of

Family Growth

The Lebanon, Connecticut, Regional Alumni Association membership chairman reported in their newsletter "The Fence Post," edited by Maria Weingart, that they had signed up their first whole family of life members. From left to right are Jeff, Nancy, Craig, Glenn, Sandra and Ernest Staebner of Blue Star Farm in Lebanon.

friendship because of this even though we had never met.

It took months of planning, getting approval from everyone from the board of education to the students in our chapter. We received excited yet apprehensive go-aheads from everyone involved. The seven students to go were chosen by points gained by participating in chapter activities.

After the students were chosen, there were thousands of things to do.

We welcomed our first stop at Fredonia Seed Company located in Fredonia, New York, where we toured their operation. We were intrigued by their operation. They produce so much seed and most of the work is still done by hand.

We barely had time to stretch our legs when we were heading down Interstate 90 to Geneva State Park in Ohio for the first night of camping. We pitched our tents and ate supper and went to Lake Erie for a well-deserved swim. It was a great sight for us since most of us had never seen a body of water as large as this one. Back at the campsite we reflected on the past year and the upcoming year in FFA.

With just a few hours of sleep, it was time to hit the road again for Akron, Ohio, to visit the Goodyear Rubber Company. We got a chance to see rubber in use in ways we never imagined. The Professional Football Hall of Fame was our next stop. The night was spent at Camp Muskingum which is the Ohio Leadership Camp. There we had a chance to talk to some of Ohio's state officers as well as other Ohio FFA members. The opportunity to exchange ideas with other FFA members was great and we wished it would never end.

As we pulled into Columbiana Joint Vocational School in Lisbon, we were greeted by three of their advisors, several FFA members and, much to our surprise, members of the local press. There were the formal introductions and pictures were taken. The Lisbon, New York, FFA presented the Lisbon, Ohio, FFA with a plaque proclaiming us "Brothers in Agriculture." It was hard to describe the feelings we had about each other. The best way to say it is that we finally realized the true feeling of FFA.

We toured the 427-acre school farm and several other farms in the area including a 143,000-bird chicken farm. We were amazed by the excellent agriculture in this area of Ohio.

Members of both Lisbon FFAs camped out on a small pond and spent the night swimming, singing, performing skits and even snipe hunting. The bonds of friendship began to grow ever stronger.

As we began to say our farewells, we realized just how strong our relationship was between two FFA chapters that were together for a short 24 hours. It felt like we were leaving old friends that we wanted to spend much more time with.

The next day, the final stop was made at Niagara Falls. After the trip, we realized some of the benefits of the FFA and strongly suggest that your chapter try a trip, even if it's overnight with a chapter from your neighboring town. *(Frederick Ahrens, Advisor)*

It's Not a Hat Catalog

This is the cover of the 1983-84 Student Program Catalog which is the premier publication to explain your opportunities in FFA and vo-ag. Thus the subtitle "Many Hats To Choose From." Ask your advisor to see this special catalog. You'll find complete descriptions about each of the FFA proficiency awards plus FFA contests you can enter. This catalog is for your use, so ask for it. (Your advisor has an advisor's version, too.)

ACTION LINES ➤ ➤ ➤

- Offer to care for the shrubs in front of the school.
- Find bittersweet to sell.
- Help your grandparents with their pets during the winter's worst weather.
- Dust the plaques and trophies in the vo-ag classroom.
- Be honest with each other within the chapter and put a stop to drinking and driving.
- Gift idea for your advisor: new fleece-lined FFA coat.
- Send an Alumni member to the national convention with the advisor and member delegates.
- Cut the biggest Christmas tree around for the school lobby.
- Challenge the Alumni on the volleyball court.
- Be sure your chapter says thank you to your speech coach.
- Invite the county agent to the chapter banquet.
- Teach someone to weld.

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The Joke Page

The year was 1995, and at last a cure for the common cold had been discovered. After years of research, scientists had learned that chewing tea leaves would bring an immediate end to the dreaded cold symptoms. Unfortunately, people found tea leaves to be especially unpleasant to taste, and it was only after health workers talked long and hard that the population could be persuaded to try the new remedy. One such group of effective persuaders was located in Nome, Alaska, and a hot line was set up there for people to phone in for counseling. To advertise this unique program, full page ads were taken out with the headline: *"Eat Tea? Phone Nome!"*

Nicki Quellette
Visalia, California

"The only thing I said to him was, you don't have to fill out any forms!"

The story is told of a young Czechoslovakian, a Russian officer, a little old lady, and an attractive young woman riding on a train. Shortly after the train entered a dark tunnel, the passengers heard a kiss, then a loud slap.

The young girl thought: *"Isn't that odd? The Russian tried to kiss the old lady and not me?"*

The old lady thought: *"That is a good girl with fine morals."*

The Russian officer thought: *"That Czech is a smart fellow; he steals a kiss and I get slapped."*

The Czech thought: *"Perfect. I kiss the back of my hand, clout a Russian officer, and get away with it."*

David Hockenberry
Troutman, North Carolina

Frank: *"Elmer, alcohol killed a brother of mine."*

Elmer: *"It did?"*

Frank: *"Yep, he was run over by a beer truck."*

John Williams
Randlett, Oklahoma

A little boy was visiting a farm for the first time. He was taken out to see the lambs and finally, he built up enough courage to pat one. He was delighted. *"Why, they make them out of blankets!"* he cried.

Herbert Grimm
Barnetts Creek, Kentucky

Uncle Marvin always had bad luck. Once he found a magic lamp, rubbed it, and a genie appeared and bestowed on Uncle Marvin the Midas touch. And for the rest of his life, everything he touched turned into a muffler.

Cindy Horn
Rienzi, Mississippi

"Bill has a serious affliction," said the eye doctor. *"Everything he looks at he sees double."*

"Poor fellow," said the doctor's neighbor. *"I suppose he found it hard to get a job."*

"Not at all," replied the doctor. *"The gas company snapped him up and now he's reading meters."*

Lisa Wills
Perryville, Missouri

Q: Why do you have to wholesale a cow with no tail?

A: Because you cannot retail them.

Kirby Brown
Brookhaven, Mississippi

In the town of Tridainia, three little Trids were walking down the street when they saw the Rabbi. Now the Rabbi hasn't seen daylight for five years, so the three little Trids walked up to him and started talking to him. The four of them walked and walked and they just happened to jaywalk. Well, to jaywalk in Tridainia is a death sentence.

They all had to go before the judge. The judge told them that they had a choice between getting kicked or stoned to death. The first Trid chose to be kicked to death. So, the townspeople gathered and kicked him to death. The second and third Trid chose to go the same way. The judge then asked the Rabbi and the Rabbi said, *"I'll take kicks, too."* The judge replied, *"Silly Rabbi, kicks are for Trids."*

Byronna Sharp
Liberty Center, Ohio

Q: Why was the sorceress angry at the sorcerer?

A: Because he made a hexist remark!

Brian Snyder
Jewett, Ohio

If you froze and cloned basketball star Abdul-Jabbar, you'd get an iced Kareem clone.

Jennifer Jefferson
Roseburg, Oregon

Charlie, the Greenhand

"Charlie's trying to kick the videogame habit . . . !"

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